

Not-for-Profit and Social Enterprises

AZB & Partners is known to be socially conscious and has a strong sense of responsibility. We do a significant amount of pro bono work and also provide discounted rates to charitable organizations, notfor–profits, social enterprises and multiple bottom line companies. We were awarded the 'Trust Law Recognition of Excellence' by Thomson Reuters for our efforts in advancing pro bono in India (2016).

We regularly advise domestic / international organizations involved in humanitarian work, as well as some of India's largest philanthropic organizations. Our Founding Partners also serve on the boards of some of India's finest non-profit and charitable organizations. Additionally, we have an active microfinance practice, where we advise some of the best microfinance institutions organized as not-for-profits, operating in some of the most challenging areas. Our firm has demonstrated thought leadership and been involved in legislative and regulatory reform efforts relating to the microfinance sector.



Grameen Capital India on setting up its 'capital with a conscience ecosystem,' including (i) the acquisition of a non-banking finance company for lending to social enterprises; (ii) setting up a financial advisory company to provide advisory services to social enterprises; and (iii) structuring, documenting and negotiating investments received from high net worth individuals and institutional investors. Bahram N. Vakil serves as Chairman of Grameen Capital India.



Grameen Foundation US on (i) its investment in Cashpor Financial and Technical Services; (ii) its joint venture with ICICI Bank and Citibank; (iii) its growth guarantee program; and (iv) setting up its subsidiary in India, Grameen Foundation India, as well as structuring its products, services, activities and potential alliances. Our Founding Partner, Bahram N. Vakil previously served on the board of Grameen Foundation US.



Centre for the Advancement of Philanthropy ("CAP") in relation to advising non-profits on structural / funding issues, advising Indian corporations on their Corporate Social Responsibility programs and devising legal audit checklists for non- profits, enabling them to conduct their operations in a compliant manner. Bahram N. Vakil, serves as Chairman of CAP.



Michael & Susan Dell Foundation on (i) structuring its operations in India; (ii) its grants / donations to various non-profit organizations, and (iii) its investments in various Indian social enterprises, including Skillveri Training Solutions, Next Door Learning Solutions, Basix Sub-K iTransactions, Avanti Learning Centres and iStar Skill Development.



Children's Investment Fund Foundation on its (i) operations and grantee relations in India; (ii) grant from an FMCG company aimed at preventing child mortality; and (iii) legal and regulatory issues relating to employment and foreign contribution laws.



The Securities and Exchange Board of India in relation to assistance with drafting provisions of the Alternate Investment Funds Regulations, 2012, introducing the category of "social venture funds," that invest in social enterprises for muted returns.



Rockefeller Foundation on its (i) India entry strategy, including obtaining its registration for investment purposes; (ii) foreign contribution and corporation law issues; and (iii) foreign portfolio investments in Indian social enterprises.



Women's World Banking on (i) establishing its presence in India; and (ii) structuring its arrangements with banks and financial institutions for the financial inclusion of low income women.



World Bank on laws regulating migrants, their rights and conditions applicable to their entry into India, as part of a global analysis conducted by the World Bank Group.

TEACHFORINDIA

Teach for India on various legal, regulatory and structural issues. Zia J. Mody, our Founding and Managing Partner, serves as a Trustee of Teach for India.



CRY on its legal, regulatory, funding and strategic issues, including setting up alliances. Bahram N. Vakil serves as a Trustee of CRY.



Smile Train on (i) restructuring its Indian operations; and (ii) issues relating to Indian exchange control, corporate and foreign contribution laws.



Friends of Women World Banking on structuring issues relating to the setting up of a trust for the funding of MFI.



United Way on various legal, regulatory and strategic issues. Bahram N. Vakil previously served on the board of United Way.



Thomson Reuters Foundation on a range of pro bono projects and various legal / regulatory structuring issues.



Human Rights Watch in relation to various legal and regulatory issues.