

Sustaining Hope

New beginnings

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ADRA India's Quarterly Newsletter

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COVER

Message from the Editor

Dear Reader,

As we entered into a new year, we hoped to leave the pandemic behind, while simultaneously continuing to prepare our systems and communities for any situation that may arise. After a third wave that occupied most of our January, life has gone back to normal. As things seem to be settling for now, we are expanding to work on issues that need our attention the most. While elements related to COVID-19 remain a crucial part of what we do, we at ADRA India are keen to explore new avenues and contribute to issues such as climate change and build novel capacities. We are passionate about what we do and betterment of the people is our ultimate goal.

As we move forward, we are excited to utilize our strengths and build new ones to reach as many as people as possible.

Oxygen Generator Plants Delivered at Four Hospitals Across India



--> Four OGPs delivered to hospitals in Pune, Bengaluru, Nuzvid & Ottapalam cities under ADRA India's COVID-19 Response

--> ADRA committed seven OGPs to hospitals across India, five of which have been installed in the institutes

--> Hospitals are being supported with OGPs and other medical equipment to help underprivileged patients with quality medical facilities

ADRA India delivered four more Oxygen Generator Plants (OGPs) to hospitals in Pune, Bengaluru, Nuzvid and Ottapalam cities in the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala respectively. The OGPs are a part of ADRA's COVID-19 response. During in the second deadly wave of COVID-19 in April 2021, hospitals were in dire need of medical equipment and OGPs to save lives of critical patients. Realizing this need, ADRA India procured seven OGPs to be installed in hospitals across the country. One OGP was installed in a hospital in Surat, Gujarat last year. Two more OGPs are awaited at hospitals in Ranchi, Jharkhand and Aizawl, Mizoram. These OGPs were included in the plan as a long-term solution to help the hospitals and serve the communities not only during COVID-19 but beyond the pandemic as well.

Supporting Shimla Sanitarium Hospital with Ocular Coherence Tomography (OCT)

--> OCT is a non-invasive technology to obtain high-res images of the retina. OCT can help in early detection and diagnosis of optical diseases

--> ADRA India supported Shimla Sanitarium, a charitable hospital, with the advanced technology.

--> This will help the hospital to with timely access and treatment to the needy communities.

ADRA India supported Shimla Sanitarium Hospital with Optical or Ocular Coherence Tomography (OCT). OCT is a non-invasive imaging technology used to obtain high resolution cross-sectional images of the retina. This helps differentiate the layers within the retina and measure retinal thickness to aid in the early detection and diagnosis of retinal diseases and conditions.

The Shimla Sanitarium hospital is a charitable hospital and this facility will help improve the quality of services, ensuring timely diagnosis and treatment, patient satisfaction, and offering high-quality services to the needy communities who find it difficult to have timely access to such facility anywhere in the region. Additionally, Shimla Sanatorium will be a referral center for this important diagnostic procedure to private Ophthalmologists in Shimla district and other neighboring districts.



NEWS & UPDATES

Under the Remedial and Inclusive School Education (RISE) Project, ADRA India reached out to 33 drop-out students to sensitize them on the importance of formal education and to give them the confidence to get along with children from nearby village. The 33 students were successfully mainstreamed into a state government-run school in Thiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu.



ADRA India received a memento of appreciation from the government office for the successful completion of the project "Enabling Sri Lankan Refugee Children both in Camps and Outside to Continue their Learning during COVID-19 Pandemic in Tamil Nadu" funded by UNHCR. The award was given by Ms. Jacintha Lazarus, IAS, Commissioner of Rehabilitation & Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils, Government of Tamil Nadu.

ADRA India's Assam team facilitated the formation of ACCHE schools (Adolescents' Clubs for Communication in Health/Hygiene Education) in several new areas. These clubs intend to empower young girls in various aspects of their lives and educate them about their sexual health and well-being. The team, in collaboration with the government health and education departments, also organized adolescent awareness programmes on health & hygiene in different tea gardens, and schools & colleges.



ADRA India reached out to communities on the importance of continuity in maintaining COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviour. ADRA India team sensitized people on the importance of getting the COVID-19 dose and worked to ensure vaccination for unvaccinated populations. The staff also organized community awareness programmes in several areas and created mass awareness through infotainment vans, addressed rumours, undertook crowd management for vaccination centres, and carried out trainings for community mobilizers and health workers.


ADRA India celebrated International Women's Day in its intervention areas in Assam, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu on March 8, 2022. ADRA India works with women in distress, to empower and educate them, provide them with livelihood opportunities, and make them capable of living a life of dignity. The CGPP team celebrated the day with the government frontline health workers. Under the RISE Project in Tamil Nadu, an awareness Rally was organized to emphasize on the importance of education for all, especially girls. Community women along with 50 school children took part in the rally and in a door-to-door campaign.



ADRA India in Assam conducted awareness campaign on Mental Health and Well-being in several tea gardens of the three intervention district of Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Charaideo. In collaboration with District Mental Health Department, the team provided psychosocial support and counselling sessions to the communities suffering from the dual impact of COVID-19 and economic downturn.

Impact made through ADRA India's work

 **7**
states reached

 **3,27,102**
people mobilized to get
COVID-19 Vaccine

 **10,424**
Sri Lankan Refugees
reached

 **2,57,853**
people reached on CAB
through E-rickshaws

 **3,549**
community mobilizers
and health workers
trained on RCCE

#POLIOFREE INDIA



India was declared polio-free on March 27, 2014 by World Health Organization. To maintain the status of Polio-free country, ADRA India is implementing the CORE Group Polio Project (CGPP) in three districts of Uttar Pradesh - Bagpath, Bareilly and Rampur. The project aims to maintain a high Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) coverage through Supplementary Immunization Activity (SIA) rounds and strengthen Routine Immunization (RI) in order to increase population immunity and prevent re-introduction of the Wild Poliovirus (WPV) from neighbouring countries Pakistan and Afghanistan, where active circulation of WPV is still on and a global health concern.

To commemorate the declaration week of Polio-free India, SIA round was conducted in Uttar Pradesh in March 2022. Polio booth day was conducted on 20 March 2022, followed by house-to-house immunization between 21 March and 28 March 2022.

#ADRA India ensured that all children under five years of age including newborns received OPV doses during the SIA round. ADRA engaged 150 Community Mobilization Coordinators (CMCs) to assist the vaccination team to track all under five children accurately.

#Polio classes with school children were conducted in all schools of CGPP areas from 14-16 March, 2022. A total of 209 children calling groups (Bulawa Tolly) were formed, that were engaged to bring out their siblings and peers to the polio booth. To create mass awareness, e-rickshaw rallies were conducted on 19 and 20 March in all CGPP areas. Street plays (Nukkad Natak) were conducted in HRG (High Risk Group) sites of Bareilly district on 19 and 20 March 2022.

#The CGPP team sensitized and engaged a total of 137 Community Action Groups (CAGs) that comprised of over 1,000 local community influencers in the polio round. As a result, all CGPP areas had over 80 percent booth coverage in March 2022 and a total number of 51,133 children (102%) out of a total target of 50,241 received OPV doses.

ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION

Due to the Pandemic there was a decline in the immunization coverage across the state as many sessions were missed due to lockdown and COVID-19 vaccination roll out. To fill this gap the Ministry of Health announced a special immunization drive called 'Intensified Immunization Campaign (IMI) – 4.0' for three consecutive months starting from 7 March 2022. The objective of IMI was to cover all the missed out and left out children with RI. ADRA CGPP team actively supported the government frontline health workers (ASHAs, Anganwadi Workers and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives) to make the campaign a success. Below are the few mobilization activities conducted during the Immunization Campaign:

225

ASHA workers
trained

136

CAGs engaged

422

Community
Leaders participation

164

Areas covered through
e-rickshaw rallies

3,15,000

Population reached
through rallies

198

IMI sessions
supervised

CASE STORY

Vaccination against COVID-19 of all Pregnant and Lactating Mothers

Pregnant and lactating women represent a particular population subset in any village. The delay in their inclusion from the development of trials of COVID-19 vaccine created hesitancy among them. In one such village Meerapur in block Swar, District Rampur, 32 pregnant women and 21 lactating women were identified by ADRA India's Community Mobilizer, who were hesitant in getting the vaccine.

Several misconceptions such as 'vaccine leads to preterm birth of the child, child can be born weak, risk of transfer of SARS-CoV 2 virus to the child etc.' created the hesitancy. This fear of Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI) was identified by the ADRA India team. The team was determined to overcome the hesitancy. The team held several group meetings, sensitization sessions, meeting with influencers for pregnant and lactating women, inviting them to the ADRA India's COVID-19 information booth so as to educate them on the importance of taking the vaccination.

After the intervention and efforts of ADRA India's team, all the 32 pregnant women and 21 lactating mothers agreed to take the vaccination. By the end of February, all of them had received their first dose of the COVID-19 Vaccination.



OPINION

Post-pandemic Era: Physical Events vs. Virtual Events in Social Sector

By Rohan Jain, CSR Coordinator, ADRA India

Rohan Jain deliberates on the new-age question of whether the social sector, post the pandemic, needs to go back to physical events or are virtual events equally fruitful. Rohan weighs in on the pros and cons of both the possibilities and evaluates the best way forward.

While the COVID-19 pandemic seems to be on the wane in India, non-profit and independent outlets around the country are turning to online gatherings not only to engage their sponsors or partners in civic dialogue, but also to seek financial support. Virtual seminars, it seems, can serve the same purpose. Even if free to attend, virtual interviews, discussions, and panels can draw current members, encourage new partners, and generate revenue through fundraising.

There are, of course, many drawbacks to virtual events. Networking is a characteristic of any in-person event, and while many virtual forums offer breakout rooms for personal interaction, they can be awkward and unwieldy, especially for new members. Video meetings are inherently mentally draining and are becoming less novel each day as the COVID-19 pandemic progresses. Most importantly, virtual events inherently pose a challenge to organisations that serve communities where access to technology is very low.

However, while online events are unlikely to ever replace the non-profit industry's favoured in-person events fully, civil society organizations are discovering that a creative and deliberate approach can deliver value - both for their overall mission and finances. Virtual events are not burdened with the usual overhead costs, like renting a venue or catering a luncheon. That lowers the financial risk, even if they don't lead to huge sponsorships or donations. Even assuming face-to-face events eventually return to pre-pandemic levels, non-profit leaders believe virtual events are proving their value and will remain as an enduring part of the mix for engagement and revenue strategies. Virtual events are here to stay in some fashion, even if the virus is cured next month.

The views expressed are those of the author. They do not necessarily represent the opinion of the organization.



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