

Sustaining Hope



ADRA

வீட்டுத்தோட்ட

உரிமையாளர்
சந்தோஷம் அன்பு

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ADRA India's Newsletter

January - April 2023



ADRA



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Reader,

It has been another tremendous year for ADRA India. We have been successful in achieving our goals of reaching out to the most vulnerable communities in the most hard-to-reach areas. Some of the areas we work in are so remote that it has taken persistent and culmative efforts of the teams to execute our plans and programmes. But we have done it! The employees of ADRA India are working towards a common goal. We truly believe in the mission of the organization and work hard to achieve it. Through floods and rains, heat and cold, our teams kept going. I would like to thank the staff of ADRA India for making it possible for ADRA to serve the communities. And I would also like to thank our donors, and our supporters who believed in our vision. In 2022, we reached 1.5 million people through 16 projects across India. We were able to deploy USD 2.7 million to serve our communities.

This, however, does not mean that our work is done. We persist; we aren't even halfway there yet. Many more communities need our support. This year we aspire and strive to expand our horizons, establish ourselves in more geographies, and introduce newer initiatives. We aim to grow in order to touch more lives and make a more substantial impact in India. For that, we need your continued support and faith in us.

Once again, thank you!

COVER

ADRA India Supports State Government Efforts to Curb Measles Outbreak



ADRA India supported government of Uttar Pradesh in combatting Measles Outbreak

ADRA India developed micro-plans for government's immunization campaign and trained frontline health workers

ADRA team ensured quality implementation of vaccination campaigns

ADRA India reached out to refusal families and spread awareness about the importance of immunization

Between January and March, a few CGPP catchment areas in Uttar Pradesh observed a sudden outbreak of measles cases. To combat the outbreak, the health department called a special immunization campaign named "Vishesh Tikakaran Pakhwada (VTP)", which was implemented for three consecutive months (January- March). Every month this campaign was conducted for 15 days, focusing on measles vaccination coverage. Before conducting the Special Immunization Campaign, the ADRA India team actively supported the health department in updating & developing micro plans for the campaign. ADRA trained government front-line health workers (ASHAs, AWW, and ANMs) and Community Action Group (CAG) members on communication skills in all 15 blocks of three CGPP districts. The training focused on making the interactions more exciting and participative using the indigenous communication tools such as using glass and water to explain full immunization coverage, use of mud, turmeric powder, and chart paper to explain sanitation and hygiene etc., and use of IEC materials during the group and one-to-one meetings. The ADRA team ensured quality implementation of the campaigns through effective community mobilization activities such as mother's meetings, one-to-one meetings with refusal families and with new mothers, identification of eligible children and distribution of invitation slips for vaccination. At the end of campaign in March 2023, 85% (total 10,738) of the children of the CGPP area received due antigens.

ONGOING PROJECTS

ADRA India currently has 8 ongoing projects in the sectors of Health & WASH, Education, Projection, Livelihood & Humanitarian



Poverty Alleviation and Community Empowerment through access to improved livelihoods and Social Protection (PACE): To enhance the capacities of local communities for advocacy and engaging with local institutions in demanding effective service delivery to the most vulnerable, and promoting sustainable livelihood opportunities and social inclusion among poor & marginalised households in select villages of Tamil Nadu.

Remedial and Inclusive School Education (RISE): To assist school children, who are either dropouts or at risk of dropping out of school, due to a lack of awareness and support from parents, teachers and school management, to complete their basic education and enhance their standard of living in Tamil Nadu.



Local Economic & Social Strengthening (LESS III): To contribute towards creating durable social and economic solutions for Sri Lankan refugees living in Tamil Nadu.

Fresh Hope for Girls – A Hygiene & Livelihood Initiative: To increase hygiene education in the tea garden communities of Assam, empower adolescent girls and provide hygiene-related livelihood opportunities for marginalized women through a low-cost, sustainable sanitary napkin unit.



Protection and Humanitarian Assistance to new arrivals from Myanmar in Mizoram (PHAMM): To provide immediate and lifesaving humanitarian assistance to vulnerable Myanmar new arrivals and host communities, especially those living in informal settlements or villages to ensure their basic food security, health and protection needs are met.

Core Group Polio Project (CGPP): To strengthen national & regional immunization systems to achieve polio eradication and implementation of supplement Polio Immunizations in Uttar Pradesh and Assam.



Promoting CAB, vaccination & psychosocial support to communities, especially underserved and migrant populations in northeast and northern states of India: To support the government's fight against COVID-19 by extending psychosocial support to communities, especially underserved and migrant populations, promoting COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) to reduce virus transmission, and supporting vaccination drives.

Promotion of COVID-19 Appropriate Behavior, a precautionary dose of COVID-19 vaccine, in CGPP areas of Uttar Pradesh and Assam: To leverage learning from the previous programming to increase the uptake of COVID-19 vaccination and RI, reduce the risk of COVID-19 and other diseases transmission by promoting risk mitigation measures, build the capacity of frontline workers and CAGs and strengthen community engagement for emergency preparedness of VPD outbreaks and pandemics.



NEWS & UPDATES

ADRA Organizes Like Skills Sessions for School Students



Under the Remedial and Inclusive School Education (RISE) Project, ADRA India organized life skill sessions in 3 schools on leadership, communication, problem solving and creative thinking for 543 students from classes 6-8. For one of the schools, special teacher was appointed by the project to tutor 180 students struggling to learn. The project also organized a motivation session on psychological preparedness for classes 10, 11 & 12.

Celebrating International Women's Day



ADRA teams organized fun-filled Women's games, awareness meetings on various topics, rallies and rangoli-making competitions across Assam, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8. They also conducted a small group meeting to celebrate women's day with Sri Lankan refugees, where the team spoke about women's empowerment and shared gifts with the participants.

ADRA India Offers Soft-Skill Training to Sri Lankan Refugees



With an aim to empower the Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu to become self-reliant, the project provided livelihood skill training on Aari embroidery to non-camp refugees. The team also arranged exposure visit to stitching and designer studios for 15 participants. During the visit the beneficiaries were oriented on how to start up a tailoring & embroidery business, process of registration, and ways to manage customers.

Oxygen Generation Plan Installed in Mizoram Hospital



ADRA installed an oxygen generation plant at Aizawl Adventist Hospital, Mizoram. This hospital has been providing healthcare services in the region since 1996 and has grown to a 50-bed facility offering a range of services. With this critical infrastructure in place, the hospital can continue to serve the community with access to oxygen supply in times of need. Transporting and installing the OGP in Aizawl was a challenging task and required additional time due to the difficult terrain.

ADRA's Sanitary Napkin Unit Women Workers Spread Awareness on Menstrual Hygiene



ADRA India is promoting menstrual hygiene and access to low-cost sanitary napkins in schools and villages of Tinsuka and Dibrugarh, Assam. Through the promotion activities organized by the SHG women working at the Pad Unit set-up by ADRA, the team was able to secure orders for sanitary napkins from several government schools. ADRA India conducted a total of 14 promotional meetings between January and April.

Celebrating India's Polio-free Anniversary



ADRA India celebrated 9-years of polio-free India. India received 'Polio-free certification' from World Health Organization on March 27, 2014. ADRA India contributed to the government's efforts of polio eradication from the country. On the anniversary, the team conducted awareness activities for polio vaccination at nomadic and High-Risk Group (HRG) sites of CGPP catchment areas in Uttar Pradesh.

#INITIATIVES

ORGANIC KITCHEN GARDENS

Under the project, ADRA India identified and trained 10 households from Yenambakkam, Tamil Nadu on organic vegetable cultivation. The trainees gained knowledge on land preparation, plot designing, manure preparation, sowing and weeding.



PLAY: Watch the incredible impact of ADRA India's support during and after the pandemic as these three resilient women share their success stories of setting up organic kitchen gardens. Thanks to ADRA India's support, these women have found a sustainable way to support their families and communities.

**CASE STORY****Empowering Rural Communities through Organic Kitchen Gardening.**

Tamilarasi is a 31-year-old mother who is also the breadwinner of her family. She lives with her husband and two daughters in Yenambakkam, Tamil Nadu.

Her family's finances began to dry up after she had to quit her previous job as a papad (dry snack item) vendor. Her husband worked as a daily labourer but his income alone was insufficient to support their family. He would often spend most of the money he made on his drinking habits, which left Tamilarasi to fend for the family.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, both Tamilarasi and her husband did not have a source of income. This situation left them worried as they slowly used up their savings. Realizing the need to provide immediate relief to vulnerable communities affected, ADRA India responded by providing Unconditional Cash Transfers (UCT). This assistance helped Tamilarasi and her community sustain themselves for three months. But they were worried about what they would do after the three months.

Understanding the need for sustainable support in the intervention area, ADRA India helped her and nine other families to establish Organic Kitchen Gardens. The Organic kitchen garden is an alternative livelihood initiative as part of the RISE project. Under the pilot project, ADRA India provided training on organic gardening and took the selected households out on exposure visits to see best practices. The trainees gained knowledge on land preparation, plot designing, manure preparation, sowing and weeding. The trainer also taught them the differences between good and bad insects and how good insects protect and help in the growth of plants. After the training, trainees were selected and supplied with seeds, a fencing net and equipment each to begin their kitchen gardens in their backyards.

Unfortunately, the heavy monsoon that season washed away all their hard work. ADRA India once again provided them with seeds to restart their kitchen gardens. Thankfully, the plants grew beautifully the second time, and the families enjoyed the fruits of their labour. "We can enjoy a meal with at least one brinjal, green chilli, pumpkin, or tomato from the garden every day, and that motivates me to improve and try to do it even better," says Tamilarasi.

OPINION



MEAL - the Third Eye of Humanitarian Projects

By Suganthi Merwin
Monitoring & Evaluation Officer

Suganthi Merwin talks about the importance of incorporating a strong Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning (MEAL) system at the beginning phase of the project for its successful implementation.

"Monitoring and evaluation help organizations track, analyze and report relevant information and data right from the beginning until the end of the project," says Suganthi

As part of ADRA India, we work in different parts of the country, with people living in different sub-cultures, and at-risk people with a minimum standard of living. As a monitoring and evaluation officer, I support multiple projects and make monitoring visits to various project sights. From refugee camps, cyclone/flood-affected victims, and emergency responses during COVID-19, to the school dropout kids, I work with people facing various vulnerabilities. Initially, I thought "Why do we want to monitor or evaluate the service given to the needy people" but then realized the necessity and importance of a strong MEAL (Monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning) system for a successful implementation of a project.

ADRA India incorporates MEAL system into the project from the design phase and it is activated from the beginning of the implementation, setting up criteria, and developing necessary sources of verifications to make sure the right and identified people receive the benefits. In many places, I was able to provide my input and recommendations during the implementation process because of the MEAL system. Apart from this, I was able to gather all required qualitative data in preparation for a progress report, which would give the stakeholders a broader understanding of the project activities.

Likewise, monitoring and evaluation help organizations track, analyze and report relevant information and data right from the beginning until the end of the project. And it leads the donors to provide their input to the team on the strategy & activities planned.

Continuous monitoring & evaluation helps the organization to understand the needs of the community better. It also gives them realistic feedback on the activities. This provides the project clarity on the expected outcomes and if they need to review their process. With real-time feedback on their project, the organization does not have to wait until the end of the project to understand the impact of their efforts.

The MEAL system also helps the organization and stakeholders understand the success & difficulties of the project. Quantifiable data helps them to determine the positives & arrive at solutions and improvements based on evidence. This data also helps in future projects as a reference or research. Learning from the MEAL system of a project can help streamline operations across other areas as well.

In my opinion, the contribution made by the monitoring and evaluation system to all the projects implemented by ADRA India will help the organization to achieve its larger goal of serving humanity so all may live as God intended.

ACCOLADES



Community in Assam Felicitates ADRA India for its Support

Laal (Red) isn't always a sign of danger. The Infotainment van of ADRA India, which is also known as the "Laal Gaadi (or red bus)", has been running since 2018 in different tea gardens of Assam with its all-weather audio and video system. Over the years, it has contributed the much-needed awareness to communities on topics such as polio, routine immunization, COVID-19, child marriage, tuberculosis, nutrition, and mental health. The real challenge was during the COVID-19 pandemic. But with support from various external bodies such as National Health Mission and the tea garden management, ADRA India took the challenge head on. The team developed IEC material in local languages and undertook public awareness through the infotainment van. The community remembered the effort and support provided to them, especially by Mridul Konwar, who was there with them throughout. His efforts during the last five years, along with the dedication of the team, were appreciated by the community. They felicitated and thanked ADRA India during the Assamese new year "Rongali Bihu". This acceptance and love from the community has boosted the confidence and motivation of the staff and trust of the people.



ADRA Employee Awarded as 'Corona Warrior' by National Newspaper Agency

ADRA India's Senior District Mobilization Coordinator from Uttar Pradesh, Irshad Hussain, was been awarded by Amar Ujala Newspaper as a 'Corona Warrior'. Hussain was recognised for his exemplary work, along with his team, for the service to their community during the COVID-19 crisis. Former Union minister and Senior BJP leader Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and the UP State Government Minister Shri Baldev Singh Aulakh presented him with the award during a three-day village development fair organized by the newspaper from March 17-19 in Bilaspur town in Rampur district.

At ADRA, we are incredibly proud of Mridul Konwar, Irshad Husain and all our employees who work tirelessly to support communities in need.



ADRA India Organizes Health Camps for Staff

ADRA organized health camps to conduct basic health check-ups for its staff and their families as well as external members. Two camps were organized in the Head Office in Gurgaon and in Chennai office. A total of 110 people benefitted from the health camps. The staff was provided with check ups for Body Mass Index, Blood Sugar, Blood Pressure, dental, and doctor consultation.

Digital Walking Challenge for ADRA India Staff

To ensure and encourage a healthier lifestyle for its employees, ADRA India has initiated a digital walking challenge. The 45-day walking challenge started on April 17. 53 participants from all over the country are walking to have the maximum step count by the end of the 45 days. The top two winners will be rewarded for their dedication and consistency.

Session on Stress Management Organized

ADRA India conducted a session on mental health and stress management for its staff. The session was hosted by Dr Khushbu Goel, Neurology Consultant at Manipal Hospital, Dwarka. Dr Khushbu talked about how to take care of one's mental health in professional and personal challenging situations. The session saw a participation of around 100 staff members.



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