

# Sustaining Hope

## INSIDE THE ISSUE

- 01 Who We Are
- 02 Message from the Editor  
Cover
- 03 News & Updates
- 04 Community Empowerment
- 05 In Pictures  
Intensified Mission Indradhanush 5.0
- 06 Highlights  
Internal Initiatives



**ADRA India's Newsletter**

**May - August 2023**



# WHO WE ARE



Watch our Country Director, Weston Davis and Acting Programmes Director, Imran Majid talk about ADRA India's work, mission and vision.

# OUR WORK

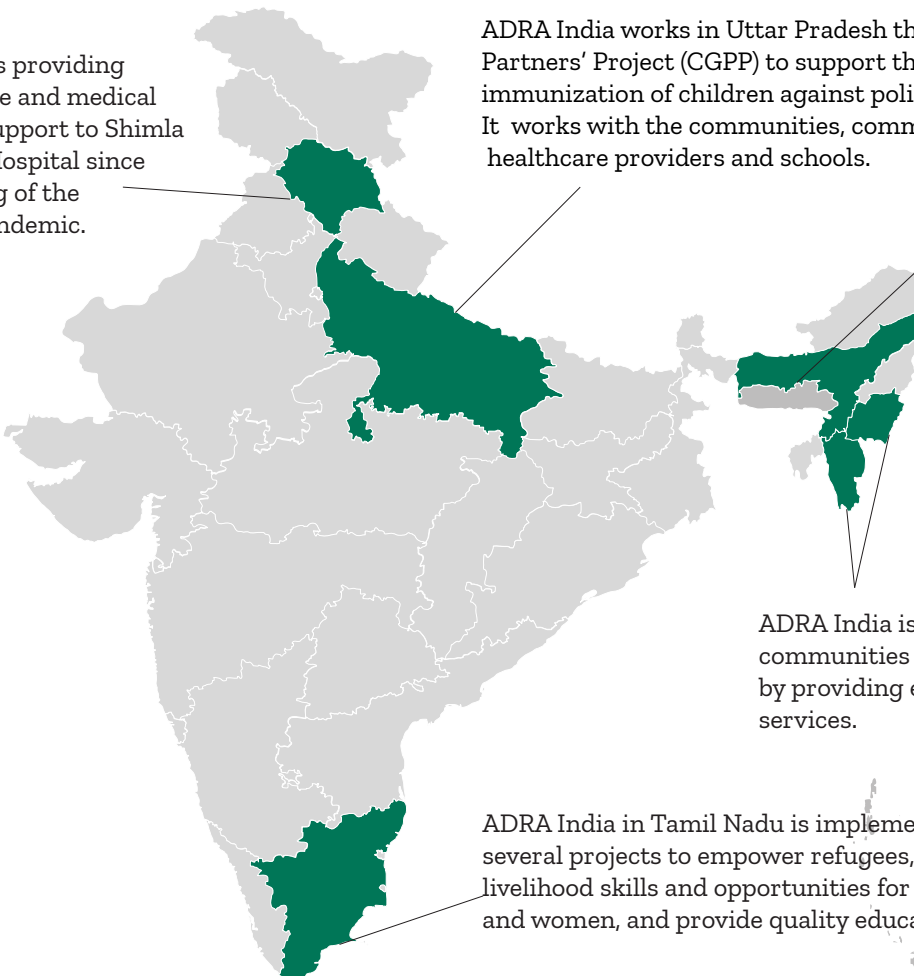
ADRA India is providing infrastructure and medical equipment support to Shimla Sanitarium Hospital since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ADRA India works in Uttar Pradesh through Core Group Partners' Project (CGPP) to support the government in immunization of children against polio and other diseases. It works with the communities, community leaders, healthcare providers and schools.

In Assam, ADRA India works for the upliftment of the minority tea garden communities. ADRA India supports through several life skills and livelihood programs, especially for women and adolescents. Our Sanitary Napkin Unit is providing employment to women and spreading awareness on the importance of menstrual hygiene.

ADRA India is reaching out to displaced communities in Mizoram and Manipur by providing essential items and services.

ADRA India in Tamil Nadu is implementing several projects to empower refugees, provide livelihood skills and opportunities for the youth and women, and provide quality education to children.



## COVER STORY

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Reader,

Sometimes day-to-day work can feel mundane and like not much progress has been made. But these newsletters are a good reminder for not only the readers, but also the ADRA teams sitting in different corners of India that ADRA India is making strides through several projects, new and old. Progress lies in consistency. And that consistency is showcased by our employees. Our teams work tirelessly, day in and day out, beyond the stipulated work hours, and have been working for years, to provide support to people in need. Our project teams like to get creative in their ways of engaging with the communities. They go beyond their terms of responsibility to connect with the people they work with. This edition of the newsletter is a good example of how our biggest strength are the people that work for and with us. The newsletter highlights the creative and unique work being done by the people of ADRA India to build trust and rapport with the communities. Because without this trust, we cannot achieve any of what we have achieved so far.

Trisha Mahajan

## ADRA India Reaches Out to Communities Impacted by Cyclone Biparjoy



**Cyclone bipolarjoy hit Gujarat and parts of Rajasthan on June 15.**

**Close to 0.1 million people were evacuated in anticipation of the cyclone.**

**ADRA India sent its team to monitor the scale of the devastation as soon as the cyclone hit Gujarat.**

**ADRA India supported the displaced people with hygiene kits. Kits were distributed to 780 households in 17 affected settlements of Kutch, Gujarat.**

ADRA India responded to the devastation caused by Cyclone Biparjoy. The storm made landfall in India's coastal regions on June 15th, bringing widespread destruction to homes, infrastructure, and agricultural areas, as well as sparking massive flooding across multiple states.

Cyclone Biparjoy exceeded winds of over 125 kilometers per hour and torrential rains, killing two people, injuring hundreds, and displacing at least 100,000 families, children, and individual citizens. According to local authorities, thousands of people were stranded, without electricity, and required immediate food, clean water, shelter, and medical assistance.

ADRA India sent its teams to conduct a needs assessment. ADRA distributed hygiene kits to 780 households across 17 affected settlements in the Kutch district of Gujarat. This initiative aimed to protect health and aid recovery by mitigating health risks following natural disasters.

## NEWS FLASH

The annual floods in Assam have inundated several parts of the state. At present, 7 districts remain impacted thousands of people are affected and 18 people have lost their lives to floods this year. ADRA India is monitoring the situation and assessing the most urgent, short term and long-term needs. ADRA India is ready to reach out to the communities as and when required.



# NEWS & UPDATES

## Livelihood and Life Skill training under RISE Project



To enhance the livelihood of women and communities in Tamil Nadu, RISE Project organised skill training programs for 57 people. They were trained in livestock rearing and organic cultivation. The sessions tutored the participants on the marketing of green vegetables. The project also conducted a life skill program for school children. 137 children attended the life skill program on topics such as team building, caring for others, communication and Interpersonal relationships.

## International Mother's Day



ADRA India teams came together to honour and celebrate mothers in their communities on Mother's Day on May 8. Teams in our intervention areas celebrated the day by organizing several fun activities for mothers including dance and singing program, and games.

## Yoga Day Celebrations with School Students



This yoga day on June 21, ADRA India's Remedial and Inclusive School Education (RISE) team in Tamil Nadu organized a two-day yoga session in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University (TNPESU). With 43 students participating, the program raised awareness about yoga, promoting improved concentration and an active, vibrant lifestyle.

## World Breastfeeding Week



During World Breastfeeding Week from 1-7 August, ADRA hosted several events for new mothers and pregnant women. Awareness sessions, community meetings, mothers' meetups, demonstrations on proper way of feeding, and street plays were organized through the week. Several women from the communities participated enthusiastically in the meetings.

## World Environment Day



World Environment Day is celebrated every year on June 5. This year, ADRA India celebrated the day with children and communities in its intervention areas in Assam and Uttar Pradesh. The communities made environment awareness posters and planted trees. The ADRA team held awareness sessions for the participants.

## India's 77th Independence Day



Enthusiastic celebrations adorned Independence Day throughout Dibrugarh and Tinsukia, Assam. ADRA India, in collaboration with local schools and communities, came together to honor the 77th anniversary of India's Independence. Schools hoisted the national flag and the children took out rallies with the flag to celebrate the day.

# COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

## Empowering Community for Better Healthcare Access



*Women posing with their healthcare cards*

ADRA India was faced with a critical challenge in one of the communities it works with in Tamil Nadu. A large portion of the community members lacked health insurance cards in Thiruvallur Districts. These cards are of utmost importance for individuals to access quality healthcare services. Recognizing the urgency of this issue, ADRA India decided to take action to address it.

The team at ADRA India had open conversations with everyone in our community. The organization discovered that many of the individuals were missing the necessary documents required for obtaining health insurance. These documents included papers such as identification and proof of residence. To resolve the issue, ADRA India worked together with community members to help them gather and prepare all the needed paperwork. Once everything was in order, the documents were submitted to the Village Administrative Officer (VAO) for approval.

When ADRA India received the green light from the VAO, it was a pivotal moment. ADRA India arranged transportation in its program school bus for the 10 most needy individuals to the District Collectorate Office in Tiruvallur District. There they were issued the invaluable "Chief Minister-Kapitu Thitum Card," granting them access to essential healthcare services.

However, the mission did not conclude at this point. ADRA India recognized that there were still many others in the community who required assistance. To ensure that no one was left behind, ADRA India collaborated closely with the village development committee and guided them to support every eligible community member in obtaining health insurance card.

This collective achievement goes beyond the cards themselves; it signifies hope and a path to better health for the community.

## Ravichandran's Story of Success - from Refugee to Entrepreneur



*Ravichandran and his team at his bakery stall at the food festival*

Ravichandran was one of the refugees whose stall was a big hit at the World Refugee Day Food Festival organized by the Organisation for Eelam Refugees' Rehabilitation (OfERR) and supported by the UNHCR. The festival was held on June 24th and 25th, 2023. Ravichandran is a refugee from Sri Lanka who has been living in India for over 10 years. When he first arrived, he had no idea what he would do to support himself and his family. So, he decided to learn how to bake.

Ravichandran started his own bakery business and was doing well until the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and his business came to a standstill. He had no orders and was unable to support his family back in Sri Lanka. Ravichandran was determined to keep his business going. He opened a small shop and started baking again.

UNHCR and ADRA were happy to support Ravichandran. They helped him purchase equipment for his shop that would help him do better. With this new equipment, Ravichandran was able to expand his business and meet the demand for his products. He quickly became successful and now has regular orders from schools, colleges, and tea shops.

Two of our ADRA program beneficiaries showcased their exceptional culinary skills at the festival.

# In Pictures

## Intensified Mission Indradhanush 5.0

ADRA India in Uttar Pradesh and Assam contributed to the first round of the government's IMI (Intensified Mission Indradhanush) 5.0, making sure that no child was left behind when it comes to their vaccinations.

The IMI 5.0 is an immunization campaign to reach pregnant women, and children between zero and five who have missed vaccines in the immunization schedule. ADRA India held mothers' meetings, door-to-door campaigns, assistance at the session site, etc.

The second round is being held in September and the third round will be held in October. Each round is held for six consecutive days.



# HIGHLIGHTS

## ADRA India signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission (ASRLM)

ADRA India signed an MOU with the state government's ASRLM, becoming technical partners in the revival and care of sanitary napkin production units in Assam. With this partnership, we aim to create sustainable livelihood opportunities for women, ensure access to affordable and hygienic sanitary napkins and promote health and hygiene.

ADRA India has a fully functional Sanitary Napkin Unit operating in Assam, employing local women from the tea estates. The aim is to provide livelihood opportunities to the women of the tea gardens and spread awareness about the importance of menstruation hygiene. The staff of the napkin unit visits schools and communities to create awareness among adolescent girls and women about period health. ADRA India is now coming up with another Sanitary Napkin Unit in the state, which will be inaugurated by the state government officials in the coming months.



## ADRA India Employees Present Paper at International Conference on Public Health

Vivekananda Biswas and Shalini Bisht from ADRA India were invited to ICOPH (International Conference on Public Health) in August 2023 in Malaysia to present a paper on **Pandemic Triggering Social Inclusion and Community Engagement to combat vaccine hesitancy through CAGs (Community Action Groups)**.

Under the overarching theme "Preparedness in Public Health: Advancing Technology, Equity, and Strengthening Community", the conference aimed to embark on a transformative journey towards a healthier and more equitable world.



## Core Group Polio Project Annual Review Meet Held



The annual project review meeting of the Core Group Polio Project (CGPP) was held in Mumbai on August 17 and 18, 2023. The meeting saw the participation of members of the Core Group, all of ADRA's CGPP staff, ADRA International members, and staff from ADRA India's country office. During the two-day event, participants took a look back at the year gone by and planned for the upcoming term.

## ADRA India, Sri Lanka Hold LESS Project nReview Meet



In July, LESS project had a lessons learnt workshop for project staff to share their learnings, good practices and challenges faced during the implementation of this phase. It was a joint lesson learnt workshop with ADRA Sri Lanka. Nisansala Perera, Programs Officer, MEAL and Compliance, ADRA Sri Lanka participated in the meeting and shared learnings from his office. Members of ADRA India's Country Office leadership team were also present during the workshop.

## Accounting Software Training Held for Finance Staff



From 29 May to June 9, ADRA India held SunPlus Accounting Training for its entire finance staff. The training equipped the staff with technical knowledge about the accounting software's latest version. It has equipped the staff to deliver quality financial reports in an efficient manner. It was conducted by the Director of SunPlus Software, David Ackah.



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