

Sustaining Hope

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ADRA India's Newsletter

September-December 2023



Dear Reader,

As we wrap up 2023, let's take a moment to reflect on the year that's passed. It's easy to get caught up in the day-to-day grind and overlook the progress we have collectively made. Our newsletters, like this one, serve as a reminder for both you and our ADRA teams across India that we're moving forward through various projects, old and new.

This edition of the newsletter shines a spotlight on the remarkable breadth of work that ADRA India engages in to uplift communities. Be it the deeper issues that concern India's vulnerable or upheaval caused by natural calamities, ADRA India is quick to reach those in distress.

I'd like to share a pivotal moment from this year—the renewal of our FCRA License. This underscores our commitment, securing our ability to persist in our impactful work for the communities we serve.

Throughout 2023, ADRA India has played a pivotal role in addressing pressing issues and expanding its reach to new geographies and states. We've embraced new challenges, committing ourselves to causes crucial for the well-being of the marginalized.

Thank you for being part of our journey, and here's to more milestones ahead.

Warm regards,
Trisha Mahajan

ADRA India Secures Renewal of FCRA License



ADRA India has achieved the significant milestone of securing the renewal of its FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) license. This renewal underscores ADRA India's commitment to advancing and supporting various humanitarian initiatives across the country. The FCRA license plays a pivotal role in facilitating the organization's ability to receive foreign contributions, enabling it to continue its vital work in addressing pressing social issues, promoting sustainable development, and making a positive impact on the lives of those in need.

WATCH: ADRA INDIA'S WORK OVER THE YEARS



NEW INITIATIVES

RISE Phase II

Project RISE (Remedial and Inclusive School Education) entered its Phase II in November 2023, with an objective of Promoting resilient communities through improved access to social protection and better livelihood opportunities in Tiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu in India. Phase I of the project started in September 2020.

LESS Phase IV

Local Economic and Social Strengthening entered its fourth phase to create an environment that promotes resilience, social cohesion, and adaptive capacity, and fosters sustainable development for vulnerable communities facing displacement and crisis. The project works with Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu.

2023 REWIND

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

34,853
people reached
through
Fresh Hope
Project



3,974
children reached
with access to
education through
RISE Project

22,035
refugees impacted
through the
LESS Project



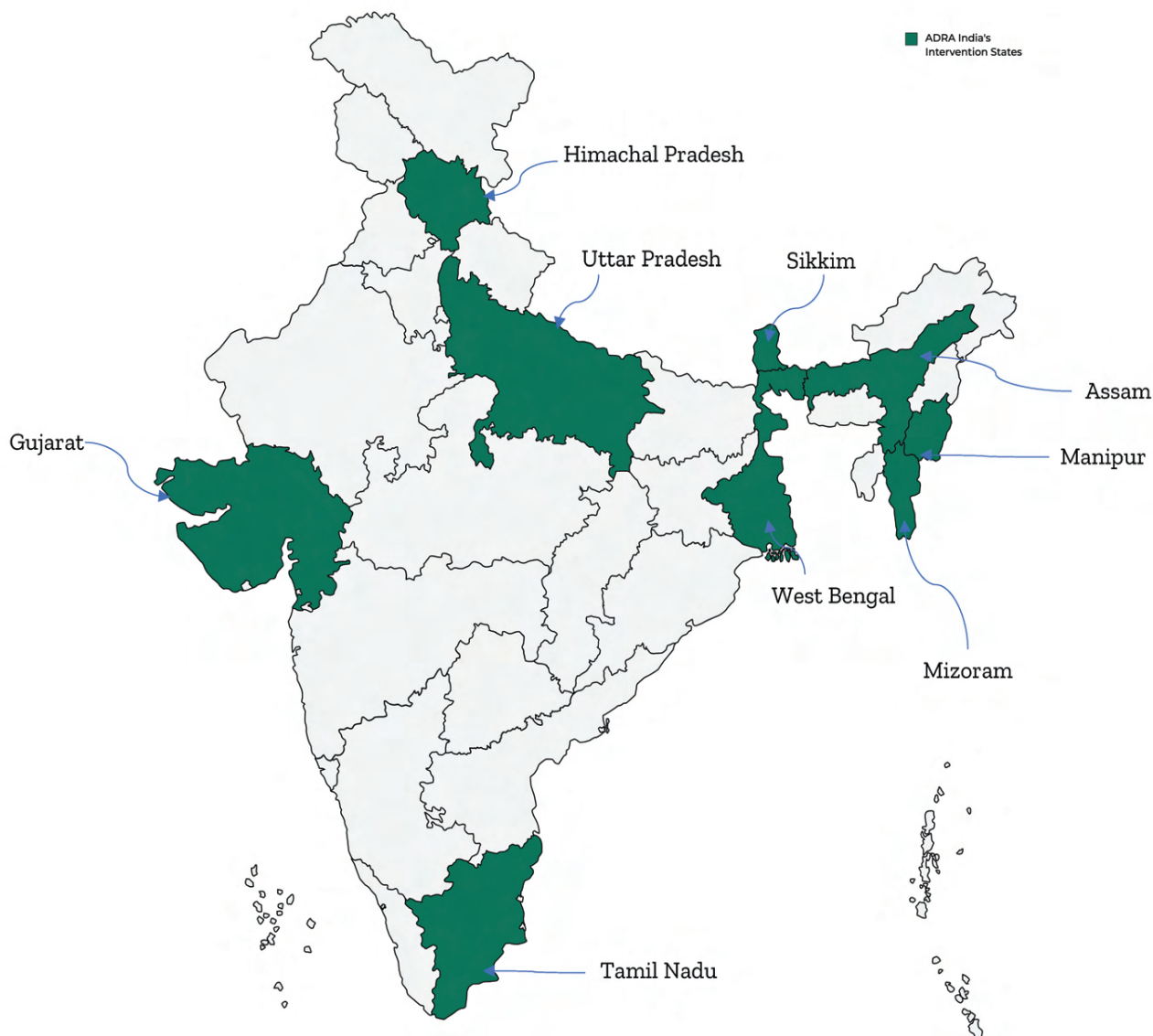
91,000
children immunized in
Uttar Pradesh and Assam
through CGPP



Individuals benefitted
through PACE
Project

1,457

ADRA India Intervention States



EMERGENCY RESPONSES



ADRA India Reaches Out to Communities Impacted by Floods in Sikkim and West Bengal

In the wake of a devastating flood that struck several towns and communities in the Teesta River valley, ADRA India swiftly mobilized to assist those affected by the calamity. Triggered by a surge in the Teesta River's flow and the bursting of the South Lhonak Lake, at least four districts downstream experienced severe flooding, leaving numerous families displaced and their homes destroyed. In response to this crisis, ADRA India has initiated a comprehensive support program, providing shelter kits, blankets, tarpaulins, cooking utensils, medicated mosquito nets, and multi-purpose cash assistance to aid in the recovery process. ADRA reached over 1,100 households in West Bengal and Sikkim through non-food item kits and provided cash-based assistance to more than 900 households to aid the overall recovery of the impacted areas.

ADRA India Responds to Cyclone Michaung in Tamil Nadu

Following the devastation caused by Cyclone Michaung in Tamil Nadu, ADRA India collaborated with Sphere India to conduct a rapid needs assessment in six villages of the Thiruvallur district. Heavy rainfall in Tiruvallur from December 2nd to 4th, 2023 led to significant damage, with nearly 60 uprooted trees identified in the Gummidipoondi camp. ADRA India promptly initiated debris cleaning and provided sewage assistance, benefiting approximately 1500 people.

Protection Assistance, including 200 tarpaulins, was distributed to the Anna Nagar Community to address essential needs. Additionally, in partnership with the South India Union of Seventh-Day Adventists, ADRA distributed 750 dry ration kits in 42 locations across Chennai. A total of 7,666 people were reached.



Tamil Nadu Floods

ADRA India's dedicated team conducted thorough assessments to gauge the impact of the floods in Tamil Nadu in December 2023. Following a comprehensive evaluation, ADRA has committed to aiding two severely affected taluks, Srivaikuntam and Eral, Tuticorin district. In collaboration with local government officials, ADRA is distributing essential hygiene kits to 1272 households. This collaborative initiative aims to ensure a well-coordinated and impactful response.



HIGHLIGHTS

ADRA India Hosts Partners and Friends Appreciation Gala



ADRA India hosted a meaningful Partners and Friends Appreciation Gala, dedicated to expressing gratitude for the contributions of our partners and friends. The event provided a platform to recognize the collaborative efforts that have fueled our humanitarian initiatives and projects.

The evening was filled with warmth as attendees enjoyed heartfelt speeches, interactive sessions, and moments of reflection on our shared commitment to making a positive impact in communities. We express deep appreciation for the ongoing support, acknowledging that our success is intricately linked to the strong partnerships forged with individuals and organizations who share our vision. The gala not only celebrated past achievements but also set the stage for continued collaboration and shared successes in the future.



ADRA India Hosts Team from ADRA Timor-Leste

ADRA India was delighted to welcome colleagues from ADRA Timor-Leste to our head office. The visit centered around promoting collaboration, sharing insights, and learning from each other's experiences. The meeting resulted in knowledge sharing and stronger ties between the two offices. We anticipate the continued exchange of knowledge and the combined impact we can achieve by working together.

ADRA India Upgrades Facilities at Simla Sanitarium & Hospital



ADRA India is pleased to announce the completion of the cafeteria renovation at Simla Sanitarium & Hospital in Shimla. The ADRA India team visited Shimla to inaugurate this newly-renovated canteen. This improvement aligns with our commitment to enhancing healthcare beyond medicine, aiming to create a welcoming environment for patients and their families.

In addition to the cafeteria upgrade, ADRA India has provided new medical equipment to support the hospital in delivering quality treatment. These efforts contribute to our ongoing mission of improving healthcare accessibility for the community. We are optimistic that these enhancements will have a positive impact on the overall well-being of individuals in need.

#ADRAIndiaShorts



Swacch Bharat Mission
Swacch Bharat is a national cleanliness campaign initiated by the government of India to honour Gandhi's commitment to sanitation and hygiene. ADRA India's teams in Assam united with schools and communities on October 2nd to create a cleaner environment by tidying up their surrounding areas.

World Polio Day

ADRA Teams across Assam and Uttar Pradesh celebrated World Polio Day on October 24, 2023, along with the local communities. ADRA India supports the government in Immunization and Polio programs in high-risk regions of both states.



World Immunization Day

On World Immunization Day, ADRA India's dedicated teams in Uttar Pradesh hosted a series of events and awareness sessions across intervention areas, focusing on raising awareness and administering life-saving vaccinations to children. World Immunization Day is celebrated on November 10 every year.

World Mental Health Day

On World Mental Health Day on October 10 2023, ADRA india's teams in Uttar Pradesh organized a series of sessions for adults and children, highlighting the significance of nurturing our mental health and its impact on our overall well-being. Through mindful exercises and open dialogue, the team emphasized the importance of self-care and breaking down stigma.



Women Join Hands to Run Community Kitchen During Flooding



Due to continuous rains in the southern part of Tamil Nadu, Thoothukudi District experienced severe flooding. The Olaiputtu Restaurant, owned by Sri Lankan refugee women, also faced the impact of the flooding. The women, who live nearby, responded by converting their kitchen into a community kitchen to provide meals for locals affected by the flooding.

Various organizations, including ADRA India, offered financial support to help procure essential cooking ingredients like rice, dal, oil, vegetables, and other necessities. The community came together to support one another during these challenging times, making Olaiputtu Restaurant a source of assistance and hope for those affected by the flooding.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

'Sakhi' Vending Machine - Hazelbank's Initiative for Menstrual Health and Academic Success



The Hazelbank Sanitary Pad Production Unit, spearheaded by ADRA India, introduces a new feature – vending machines. These vending machines are being provided to educational institutions to address the challenges faced by girl students in attending school during their menstrual days due to inadequate facilities. In collaboration with the government's initiative, the unit provides 'Sakhi' brand vending machines along with sanitary pads. Two vending machines have already been installed in educational institutions, and additional support includes loose packets of sanitary pads for a machine provided by the Dibrugarh University ASU group. With several educational institutions being repeat customers, the unit not only contributes to the physical and mental well-being of students but also provides financial relief through affordable pricing. The initiative aims to extend its impact to other educational institutions, empowering girls in underprivileged areas with a healthier and more confident future.

Sanjani Urang's Journey from Mobilization Mitra to Khelo India Gold Medalist

In the heart of Tinsukia, Assam, Sanjani Urang has emerged as a symbol of empowerment and community leadership. Her journey from being a member of the ACCHE (Adolescent Club for Communication in Health/Hygiene and Education) formed by ADRA India to becoming a Mobilization Mitra under the health intervention of ADRA India and CGPP (Community-led Program) is nothing short of inspiring. Sanjani is making ADRA and her community proud by reaching new heights. In a remarkable achievement, Sanjani recently earned a gold medal in the Khelo India competition for kickboxing.

Sanjani's association with the ACCHE club laid the foundation for her impactful community engagement. With a commitment to improving health outcomes, she transitioned into the role of Mobilization Mitra, spearheading health initiatives in the Rungagara Tea Estate. She mobilizes hundreds of girls and children for routine immunization and COVID-19 vaccinations.

Sanjani has played a pivotal role in ensuring that no child or person is left out of critical health interventions. Her collaboration with ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) and active involvement in various health-related activities have contributed significantly to the well-being of her community.

Beyond health interventions, Sanjani has been a driving force in supporting sanitary pad initiatives under Fresh Hope, promoting menstrual hygiene in her community. Her advocacy has broken taboos and empowered women and girls to embrace better menstrual health practices.

ADRA India and CGPP are proud to have Sanjani as a Mobilization Mitra, and her success story inspires us to continue our mission of creating lasting change in communities across India.



Sanjani receiving her medal after winning Khelo India kickboxing championship



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