

Sustaining Hope

ADRA India's Newsletter

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ADRA

April - June 2024

NEW INITIATIVE

Dear Reader,

2024 has been a year of innovation and expansion for us at ADRA India. We have extended our reach to new communities and geographies through exciting new projects, allowing us to serve more people in diverse ways. In the coming months, we anticipate further growth in our project portfolio, enabling us to continue our mission of making a lasting impact on the communities that need us most.

This year also marks the closure of one of our oldest and most crucial initiatives—the Core Group Partners' Project. As we tie up any remaining loose ends in the coming quarters, we reflect on the lessons learned, the people involved, and the communities served. This project played a pivotal role in supporting one of the most successful polio eradication drives and has continued to support the state's immunization efforts since. We are thankful to our donors and partners for making ADRA India part of this hugely successful initiative and we are grateful to our BMCs and CMCs for making this initiative a success.

We spoke to the community mobilizers, influencers, and project teams who were instrumental in this campaign, capturing their stories, journeys, and most importantly, their legacies. We are excited to share these narratives with you through a short film, which I urge you all to watch to appreciate the history and success of the project.

Warm regards,

Watch: The Legacy of the Core Group Partner's Project



ADRA India Launches Dairy Production Initiative to Boost Sustainable Livelihoods in Assam

ADRA India has launched a new project in Assam to improve sustainable livelihoods and food security for small-scale farmers in the Baksa region through enhanced dairy production. This initiative aims to strengthen the local dairy market, provide essential extension services, enhance production capacity, and improve the genetics of dairy cattle.

The project will achieve three key outcomes:

- **Improved Gender-Responsive Dairy Cattle Production:** Addressing the needs of both male and female farmers.
- **Inclusive Access to Productive Assets:** Ensuring resources are available to all farmers.
- **Increased Female Participation in Decision-Making:** Empowering women in agricultural and community roles.

Project Phases

The project will be implemented in two phases, each lasting three years.

Phase One will address key challenges and boost dairy production through:

- Improving Herd Health and Nutrition Management
- Enhancing Genetics through Artificial Insemination
- Establishing Market Linkages

Target Impact

The project targets 956 farmers (382 female and 573 male), reaching 4,780 individuals, including household members. By addressing the limited income and opportunities in livestock rearing, the project aims to enhance agricultural livelihoods in Baksa.

This initiative marks a significant step towards sustainable development and gender inclusivity in Assam, with ADRA India leading this transformative effort.



Humanitarian & DRR

Battling the Heatwave Crisis: ADRA India's Humanitarian Response in Rajasthan

India faced an unprecedented drought crisis, exacerbated by severe heatwaves with temperatures surpassing 45°C in several regions. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) reported 536 heatwave days this summer, the highest in 14 years. Northern states, particularly Rajasthan, witnessed record-breaking temperatures and significant environmental stress. This crisis necessitated immediate intervention to mitigate its impacts on health, water supply, and overall well-being.

ADRA India identified Barmer district as one of the most severely affected regions. Partnering with local authorities, NGOs, and community groups, ADRA India implemented a comprehensive heatwave response plan to provide immediate relief and enhance long-term resilience through

Cash-based Interventions: Supported 293 households (1,406 individuals) to meet their essential needs like food, water, and medicines.

- Emphasized women's participation by directing financial assistance to female household members.

Shelter Home Support: Equipped 11 shelter homes with clean drinking water, fans, and hydration kits.

- Provided over 100 liters of clean drinking water daily and installed mud pots to maintain cool water temperatures.
- Daily wage laborers and transient populations, mostly men, benefitted from these cooling centers

Risk Communication & Community Engagement (RCCE): Conducted community meetings, educating 456 individuals directly and indirectly reaching 2,599 in Barmer.

- Expanded RCCE efforts across eight states, reaching 4,002 individuals directly and 5,627 indirectly.
- Focused on health effects of heatwaves and practical protective measures.



ADRA India and CDI Support Shimla Sanitarium Hospital with Ambulance

In May 2024, ADRA India, in collaboration with CDI, supported the Simla Sanitarium Hospital (SSH) with a new ambulance, which will significantly enhance their ability to conduct health camps in remote Himachal communities. This vehicle will transport essential medicines and medical equipment and provide crucial support by ferrying patients from hard-to-reach areas to the base hospital for urgent medical care. Meanwhile, ADRA India and SSH initiated health camps in Shimla under the HIMHEALTH project. Held from April to June 2024 in peripheral villages, these camps aimed to provide quality healthcare, focusing on preventive care and early detection. The camps treated 202 patients, offering services such as ECG exams for 81 patients, spirometry tests for 57 patients, blood tests for 112 patients, dental checkups, general checkups, and free medicine distribution. The medical team included specialists in general medicine, surgery, dentistry, OBG, and ophthalmology. The support team and effective community mobilization, involving local stakeholders and ASHA workers, ensured the camps' success.



#ADRAIndiaShorts



UNHCR Food Festival Curtain Raiser Event

UNHCR hosted a curtain raiser in Chennai for the July food festival, featuring the Tamil Nadu Rehabilitation Commissioner, consulate representatives, cooking participants from ADRA India's programmes, and popular actors Sasikumar and Suhasini. The festival logo, designed by the participants, and menu were unveiled, followed by discussions on Sri Lankan self-reliance and refugee welfare schemes. ADRA India committing to manage all technical aspects for the festival.

Honouring the Commitment of our Warriors

As the CGPP Project comes to a close, felicitation programs were held in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia, Assam to honor Community Action Groups (CAG) and Mobilization Mitras for their relentless efforts in community mobilization over the years. These events boosted their morale and commitment.



Vitamin A Supplement Drive in Uttar Pradesh

In Uttar Pradesh, a vitamin A supplement drive (for children aged nine months to five years) is being conducted for one month, from 26 June 2024 to 25 July 2024. The CGPP team is supporting the health department in preparing an effective micro-plan before the drive. On 26 June 2024, sessions were inaugurated at district and block levels involving community leaders, district magistrates, chief medical officers, block medical offices, schoolteachers, and political leaders.

World Immunization Week Celebration

From April 24 to 30, 2024, the ADRA-CGPP team celebrated World Immunization Week in Uttar Pradesh and Assam, collaborating with frontline government workers and Community Action Group (CAG) members. Activities included orienting CAG members on the importance of vaccinating zero-dose children, engaging school and intercollege students to support community mobilization, helping ASHAs create festive RI session sites with decorations and selfie points, and monitoring RI sessions to ensure high-quality services.



Empowering Youth: Capacity Building Program

The RISE II team, in collaboration with Caring Hearts Foundation, organized a Capacity Building program at Anna Nagar Thirukandalam. The event featured Dr. Gracy, founder of Caring Hearts Foundation, and Mr. R.C. Raja Sekhar, the president of Caring Hearts Foundation and Director of Marudam Group of Companies. They engaged with 10th to 12th standard students, discussing the crucial role of youth in family and community upliftment. Dr. Gracy counseled two 12th-grade girls aspiring to be teachers, recommending the Teacher Training Institute in Guindy, which offers 95% free education and government job placement. Two students have committed to this opportunity, and efforts continue to encourage more students to pursue higher education.



Menstrual Health Day Celebrated with Adolescent Girls on May 28

HIGHLIGHTS

Facilitating Health Insurance Enrollment



Under the Poverty Alleviation and Community Empowerment through access to improved livelihoods and Social Protection (PACE) Project, ADRA India facilitated registration of community members for government health insurance cards under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS) and the Ayushman Bharat Health Insurance Scheme on April 16th, 17th and 18th 2024, at Athangi Kavanur village through a community-level camp. Organized with support from local officials and Tamil Nadu Health System Project representatives, the camp aimed to enhance access to healthcare by enrolling 94 individuals from 74 households. This initiative not only provides financial protection against medical expenses but also promotes awareness and encourages regular health check-ups.



ADRA India Boosts Women's Livelihoods with Handicraft Training in Himachal Pradesh

Under the HPDRR Project in Himachal Pradesh, ADRA India conducted a 10-day livelihood training program in Damdar village, Solan District, empowering 16 women with the skills to create beautiful and functional products from pine needles and kusha grass. This initiative, held from June 5th to June 15th, 2024, aimed to equip participants with a new source of income and foster self-reliance within the community. This training program addressed these challenges by capitalizing on the abundant pine trees surrounding Damdar. Participants learned the art of transforming pine needles into eco-friendly handicrafts, including coasters, trays, organizers, and pen stands. The curriculum focused on practical skills development, with a blend of braiding, coiling, and product assembly techniques.

Objectives Achieved:

- **Skill Acquisition:** All participants successfully mastered the foundational techniques of pine needle craft, gaining proficiency in braiding and coiling.
- **Income Generation:** By the program's end, each woman created at least two high-quality products, laying the groundwork for future sales and income generation. By practice, gradually their product finishing will improve and will find place in sales and marketing.
- **Confidence Boost:** The training fostered a sense of empowerment and self-belief among the participants. They expressed confidence in their ability to craft and sell these beautiful items.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Empowering Rural Communities through Comprehensive Training Programs



The PACE team organized a series of impactful training programs in Ikkadu, Tiruvallur, focusing on entrepreneurship, small business management, and poultry farming in collaboration with INDSETI (Indian Bank Self-Employment Training Institution). The entrepreneurship training, led by experts Mr. Sitaraman and Mr. Sadagopal, addressed rural entrepreneurs' challenges, bank loan acquisition, predatory lending practices, and government schemes like the New Entrepreneur cum Enterprise Development Scheme (NEEDS), benefiting 67 participants from Kalpattu, Guruvoyal, and Athangi Kavanur. Another session targeted the Village Development Committee and Youth Champions, offering training on self-help groups (SHGs) and government schemes such as Mahalir Thittam and Swarna J ayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), promoting financial independence, healthcare support, and social security for women. Additionally, a one-and-a-half-day poultry farming capacity-building program was conducted at Athangi Kavanur, led by Mr. Sitaraman and certified trainer Ms. Abinaya, covering disease control, business development, breed selection, and poultry husbandry. These comprehensive trainings provided participants with essential skills, knowledge, and resources to enhance their livelihoods and promote community development.

Case Story: Sathyapriya's Transformation from Observer to Organizer through Community Engagement



Sathyapriya from Kalpattu village was initially indifferent about attending community meetings. However, witnessing her neighbors' active involvement piqued her curiosity, leading her to attend a Village Development Committee (VDC) and Youth Champions (YC) meeting. Inspired by their collaborative spirit and clear objectives, Sathyapriya decided to get involved.

Her perspective shifted dramatically after attending a Mushroom Cultivation Training session organized by ADRA. The hands-on knowledge and economic potential of mushroom farming captivated her, prompting her to participate regularly in meetings. She quickly evolved from a passive observer to an active organizer, consistently attending Gram Sabha meetings and even taking the initiative to organize them herself.

Sathyapriya's newfound enthusiasm turned her into a community motivator. She shared her positive experiences, encouraging others to join and benefit from the meetings. Her journey from reluctance to leadership showcases the transformative power of community engagement and personal initiative. Sathyapriya's story highlights how curiosity and opportunity can spark significant positive change within a community.

INTERNAL ACTIVITIES



ADRA India's Lessons Learnt Program on CGPP Project

From June 10-12, ADRA India hosted a Lessons Learnt program for the CORE Group Polio Project (CGPP) at Patnitop, Jammu. The event featured insightful sessions from CORE leaders and showcased innovative approaches and best practices from teams in Baghpat, Bareilly, and Assam. Demonstrations, videos, and engaging discussions highlighted the project's impact and future strategic plans. The program concluded with a felicitation ceremony, group photos, and a cultural evening, celebrating the collective efforts and achievements in eradicating polio. We are grateful to our partners, especially Core Group, for their support over almost two decades to make this project a success.

Medical Training Camp at ADRA India

On May 10th, the ADRA India Country Office hosted a successful Medical Training Camp, providing essential First Aid and CPR training to staff. Professional medical staff from Manipal Hospital, Dwarka, conducted the program in coordination with our HR department and insurance company.

The training equipped employees with critical life-saving skills, covering injury assessment, wound care, and the treatment of common medical emergencies. The CPR component focused on performing effective chest compressions and rescue breathing. Practical demonstrations allowed participants to practice chest compressions on mannequins and learn safe patient handling techniques.



GIS/Geotagging Training at ADRA India

On May 9th, the ADRA India Country Office hosted a comprehensive GIS/Geotagging training program led by Mr. Narendra Singh Kachhotiya. The training enhanced staff understanding and use of geospatial technology to improve decision-making processes.

Key topics included using longitude and latitude for precise location identification, an overview of relevant software tools, and integrating photographs into Google My Maps for better visualization. Attendees from both the country and field offices learned to tag project activities on maps, enriching project information visualization.





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