

# Sustaining Hope

*ADRA India's Newsletter*

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ADRA

*July-September 2024*

## Farewell to the Core Group Partners Project: A Legacy of Community Health and Resilience

The Core Group Partners Project (CGPP) has officially phased out after over two decades of dedicated service, marking a significant milestone in our journey. As we close this chapter, we are proud to announce that we have successfully achieved all the objectives outlined in our transition plan.

### Key Achievements:

- Oriented all Community Action Group (CAG) members on Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) tools, equipping them to develop draft emergency response plans for their villages.
- Conducted handing-over workshops at the district level.
- Successfully closed the project on September 30, 2024, with the handover of all office assets and financial records.

### Major Highlights of the Last Quarter

1. **National Dissemination Event:** CGPP celebrated the successful end of a 25-year journey towards eradicating Polio in India on September 11 in New Delhi. The event offered a collaborative space for reflecting on important lessons learned throughout the project. Being a critical partner of the project, ADRA India took an active part in the discussions and reflections.

2. **Felicitation of ASHA and ASHA Sangini:** Block-level felicitation programs were organized across three districts, honoring 223 ASHAs and 58 Sanginis for their active participation in ADRA CGPP project trainings and meetings. These health workers shared best practices, such as creating ASHA Area Maps and using IEC tools, contributing to significant community health improvements.

3. **District-Level CGPP Felicitation and Handing Over in UP and Assam:** In Uttar Pradesh, district-level meetings were held in Rampur, Baghpat, and Bareilly to honor CGPP participants. Officials from health departments and partners like WHO, UNICEF, and JSI attended these events, praising ADRA's innovative vaccination mobilization strategies. Similar events took place in Assam's Tinsukia and Dibrugarh districts.

4. **Orientation of CAGs on Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) Tools:** ADRA CGPP conducted 34 meetings on EPRP, helping 14 communities develop preparedness plans using health hazard mapping and risk assessment tools. Additionally, 56 CAG meetings focused on polio, immunization, and vaccine-preventable diseases, with efforts to improve ASHA area maps and vaccination coverage.

5. **Appreciation Certificate by District Magistrate:** On September 28, 2024, District Magistrate Rampur, Mr. Joginder Singh (IAS), awarded Irshad Hussain, District Mobilization Coordinator from ADRA India, with an "Appreciation Certificate" for his significant contributions to polio eradication efforts and routine immunization support, reflecting his dedication to improving public health in Rampur district.

### Reach and Impact

**ASHA Area Maps:** During the quarter, 192 ASHAs successfully utilized updated ASHA area maps across all three districts of the CGPP project. These maps, revised through field visit headcount surveys, ensured the immunization of eligible children and pregnant women, enhancing overall vaccination coverage.

**ASHAs in Communication Interventions:** ASHAs utilized indigenous tools, such as water bottles and wooden sticks, during 96 group meetings to demonstrate health concepts. The "two glasses with water" tool was particularly effective. BMCs supervised these sessions, providing feedback and training Sanginis for supportive supervision.

**Community Engagement with CAGs:** BMCs continued to engage CAG members to address immunization issues, promote collaborative decision-making, and mobilize families resistant to vaccination. CAGs organized 56 meetings, mosque announcements, and group discussions on topics like polio, sanitation, and nutrition, fostering stronger community connections.



## STORY OF IMPACT: CGPP

### Laxmi Devi's Journey from Community Mobilization Coordinator to ASHA Worker



Laxmi Devi is a 35-year-old resident of Majra Bahadur village in Tanda block, District Rampur, UP. Laxmi's journey with ADRA India's CGPP began in 2009 when she joined as a Community Mobilization Coordinator (CMC). She tirelessly worked to raise awareness about polio prevention and routine immunization in her community. Over the next decade, she became a trusted and familiar face, always ready to help and educate. Her role as a CMC lasted until March 2020, during which she gained invaluable grassroots experience and built strong relationships with local healthcare workers and authorities.

Even after stepping down from her CMC role, Laxmi continued her mission as a Community Mobilizer (CM) from 2020 to September 2023. She remained committed to advocating for polio vaccination, particularly in rural areas where health awareness was crucial. Her ability to connect with people and ensure timely vaccination campaigns made her a respected health worker in her community.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Laxmi took on the challenging role of a Mobilization Mitra (MM) from December 2023 to January 2024. She played a key role in COVID-19 awareness drives, vaccination efforts, and community mobilization. Her dedication ensured that vital health information reached her village, showcasing her adaptability and commitment during a critical time.

September 2024 marked a new chapter for Laxmi when she was offered the position of ASHA worker. This opportunity was the result of her hard work and the continuous support from ADRA India's BMC Mr. Imranul Haq Khan and DMC Mr. Irshad Husain. They guided and encouraged Laxmi and her husband, Mr. Anil Kumar, every step of the way.

Reflecting on her journey, Laxmi shared, "I feel proud to achieve the success of becoming an ASHA. Through the support of the ADRA CGPP team, I learned a lot that helped me in my career. I thank ADRA for providing all the opportunities in my life."

The ADRA team provided Laxmi with the necessary guidance and support to prepare her for the ASHA role. They actively advocated for her recruitment, highlighting her outstanding performance and skills to the concerned authorities. Above all, Laxmi's dedication over the years earned her a stellar reputation. The Block Medical Officer in Charge (MOIC) of Tanda, the ANM (Auxiliary Nurse Midwife), and other key stakeholders had seen her excellent work firsthand.

Laxmi's appointment as an ASHA worker also marks a significant achievement for ADRA CGPP's community mobilization initiatives. She is the 40th CMC to secure a better employment opportunity, following the footsteps of 39 other CMCs who have also achieved success in their careers.

Laxmi Devi's transformation from a CMC to a recognized ASHA worker in her society is a powerful example of the impact of grassroots mobilization and sustained support. Her story inspires many and underscores the importance of dedication and community support in achieving personal and professional growth.

## #ADRAIndiaShorts



### Awareness on Drug Abuse and Child Marriage

On September 3rd, ADRA India under the Poverty Alleviation and Community Empowerment (PACE) Project, in collaboration with the District Child Protection Unit of Tiruvallur District, organized an awareness event addressing drug abuse and child marriage in Guruvoyal Village. The event educated children on the risks of drug use and the harms of child marriage, empowering them to make informed decisions and seek help when needed. 330 children 9th to 12th standard were reached.

### Awareness for School Children on Sexual Abuse

Under the RISE Project, On September 3rd, ADRA, in collaboration with the District Child Welfare Office, organized a capacity-building program at Pandeswaram Government School. The program focused on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, educating students, teachers, parents, and the local community on child protection and the legal consequences of abuse.



### PDMC Capacity Building Training in Kullu

A two-day training session on 23-24 July at G.P. Garsa Panchayat Hall, Kullu, enhanced the capacity of the Panchayat Disaster Management Committee (PDMC). Supported by DDMA Kullu, the event saw over 85 participants from three panchayats. The training included sessions on disaster management, emergency response, and fire safety, with contributions from DDMA Kullu, Home Guard, Fire Department, Integrated Development Project for Forest, and Panchayati Raj Institution. Practical training on rescue methods, first aid, and fire safety measures was provided.

### Formation of Farmer Interest Groups

As part of the PRECISE project, ADRA India is actively forming Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs) to support small-scale dairy farmers, including women and youth. These groups will receive training and support to enhance their skills, connect with resources, and adopt new technologies. In this quarter, 20 FIGs consisting of 490 dairy farmers were formed to enhance collective farming practices and improve dairy production.



### Celebration of World Breastfeeding Week

ADRA India marked World Breastfeeding Week with a series of impactful events across its projects, emphasizing the importance of breastfeeding for the health and well-being of both mothers and infants. Activities included educational workshops, awareness campaigns, and support sessions for new mothers, highlighting the benefits of breastfeeding and addressing common challenges. Collaborating with local healthcare professionals, ADRA India's initiatives provided essential guidance and resources, empowering mothers with knowledge and fostering a supportive community environment for breastfeeding practices.



# Humanitarian & DRR

## Kerala Landslides and Flood Response: Impact and Resilience

**Highlight: Successful Distribution of Dry Food Ration Kits**

The Kerala Landslides and Flood Response (EM24-067) project has marked a significant milestone with the successful distribution of dry food ration kits to 293 households across four panchayats: Poothady, Panamaram, Vengappally, and Noolpuzha. This crucial support reached the most vulnerable communities, including Scheduled Tribes, women-headed households, and daily wage laborers. The timely distribution directly addressed immediate food insecurity and empowered women as primary recipients, ensuring family food security post-disaster.

**Gender-Sensitive Approach:** The relief distribution prioritized women as primary recipients, ensuring household food security through a gender-sensitive approach. Notably, 85% of the respondents were women, reinforcing the project's commitment to gender equality.

**Targeted Support:** Our efforts focused on marginalized communities, with 70% of the beneficiaries belonging to Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Scheduled Castes (SC). These groups are often the most vulnerable during disasters, and our targeted support aimed to address their specific needs.

**High Satisfaction with Timeliness and Quality:** Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Surveys revealed a 99% satisfaction rate among respondents regarding the quality of the dry ration kits. The kits included essential items such as rice, cooking oil, salt, sugar, and chili powder.

**Upcoming initiatives:**

**Multi-Purpose Cash Transfers (MPCT):**

Providing flexible financial assistance to 148 households to address urgent needs like rent, home repairs, or essential household items.

**Distribution of Non-Food Items (NFI) Kits:**

Distributing 102 NFI kits with items such as medicated mosquito nets, tarpaulin sheets, solar lamps, and cooking pots, helping families restore basic household functions

**Nabeesa Pocker, Wayanad:**

**71-year-old widow Nabeesa Pocker from Panamaram, Wayanad, runs a small bunker shop. The catastrophic floods of 2024 damaged her home and spoiled essential items. ADRA India provided her with a dry food kit, which helped her survive during these difficult days.**



## Andhra Pradesh Flood Response:

The floods in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in September displaced thousands of people. ADRA India quickly responded through its Total Members Involvement (TMI) grant. The organization reached out to 315 households in NTR District through dry food ration support and provided direct cash support to 327 households between September and October.

# Humanitarian & DRR

## ADRA Responds to Himachal Pradesh Floods



After a devastating cloudburst caused severe flooding and isolated Malana Village in Kullu, ADRIIndia’s HPDRR team, in collaboration with the Kullu District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), responded swiftly to bring essential relief to 180 households, covering a total of 450 people. The village was cut off from the outside world due to the complete destruction of road connectivity. To ensure timely assistance, the team arranged for food kits containing rice, pulses, dry food, oil, spices, and wheat flour to be airlifted to the affected area.

However, the airlift operation faced significant challenges as helicopters were unable to find a safe landing spot in the village. After multiple attempts, it was decided to manually transport the kits. Laborers were hired to carry the food kits on foot, navigating through treacherous terrain. Over a period of three days, the labourers successfully delivered all the kits to Malana village.

Once the supplies reached the location, the HPDRR team coordinated with local authorities to organize a systematic distribution process, ensuring that the most affected families received the relief items.

The district administration highly appreciated ADRA India’s dedicated efforts in providing aid to the isolated village of Malana. As a token of recognition, ADRA India was awarded a certificate of appreciation for their effective response and support to the families in need during this critical time. The coordinated efforts ensured that essential food supplies reached the community, despite the challenging circumstances.

## Tripura Flood Response

In response to severe flooding in Tripura that started in August, districts including Khowai, West Tripura, Sepahijala, Gomati, and South Tripura were impacted. ADRA India deployed an emergency response team to assess and address the immediate needs of affected communities. ADRA's initial response included recruiting local staff for on-ground operations and providing targeted assistance through multi-purpose cash transfers and essential relief supplies.

### Key Achievements:

- Cash Assistance: Reached 260 households (961 individuals) in East Kalabariya and West Charakbai villages with cash transfers for urgent needs.
- Food and Shelter Kits: Distributed food and shelter kits to 500 households (1,793 individuals) in Amtali and Bampur (Gomati District), and Baraj Colony and South Sonaichari (South Tripura) with support from Donatekart.

The response was conducted in partnership with ADRA International, DonateKart and Amazon, District Nodal Officers, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), and other NGOs/CBOs. ADRA conducted a baseline survey and Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) to assess the needs and impact on the selected households. Donatekart



HIGHLIGHTS

Inauguration of the Disaster Management Resource Centre (DMRC) in Himachal Pradesh



On September 27, 2024, the ADRA India HPDRR Team celebrated a significant milestone with the inauguration of the Disaster Management Resource Centre (DMRC) in G.P. Garsa, Kullu. The event drew over 90 attendees, including local administrative officers and community leaders, showcasing strong community support and recognition of ADRA's efforts in disaster management. Distinguished guests included Mr. Ashwani Kumar, Additional Division Magistrate; Mr. Gaurav Dhiman, Block Development Officer; Mr. K.K. Bhandari, Company Commander of Home Guard 7 Battalion; Dr. Kesar Chand, Scientist at G.B. Pant Institute; and various Panchayat Pradhans and Secretaries. Mr. Rakesh Yadav, the Project Manager for ADRA HPDRR, delivered a compelling address emphasizing the DMRC's critical role in enhancing local disaster management capabilities, fostering resilience within the community, and highlighting several achievements of the ADRA HPDRR Project. The establishment of the DMRC is expected to significantly bolster the region's preparedness and response to disasters, further solidifying ADRA's commitment to building safer and more resilient communities.

Skill-Based Livelihood Training for Women in Krishnanagar, Shimla

ADRA India's Himachal Pradesh Disaster Risk Reduction (HPDRR) project conducted a 10-day skill-based livelihood training workshop on ornament making from June 25 to July 4, 2024, empowering 20 women in Krishnanagar, Shimla. Led by expert trainer Mamta Kumari, the training covered beadwork, wire wrapping, metalwork, design principles, and quality control, fostering creativity, entrepreneurship, and sustainable income generation. Following the training, participants successfully crafted and sold over 250 Rakhi's during the Raksha Bandhan festivities at a stall on Shimla Mall Road, in collaboration with the Shimla Municipal Corporation. This achievement showcased their new skills, highlighting the program's impact on improving household incomes and fostering economic independence. The initiative's success underscores the potential for continued economic development and empowerment for the women of Krishnanagar.

Training Farmers on Vermicomposting Techniques

On September 24, 2024, ADRA India's HPDRR Project conducted a successful vermicompost production training in Gram Panchayat Jyestha, Kullu district. Led by Dr. Shubhash Kumar from Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bajaura, the session was attended by 30 local farmers. The training focused on vermicomposting, an eco-friendly method using earthworms to convert organic waste into nutrient-rich fertilizer, offering a sustainable and cost-effective alternative to chemical fertilizers. This initiative aimed to enhance soil fertility, boost crop yields, and provide a viable income source for farmers. With the rising demand for organic farming, vermicomposting presents a profitable opportunity for rural communities.



The HPDRR project made significant progress in the last quarter, reaching over 10,598 individuals both directly and indirectly in Himachal Pradesh.

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Enhanced Beneficiary Selection through Innovative Data Collection



The PACE project in Tamil Nadu has made significant progress in ensuring effective livelihood assistance through the development of a case analysis tool. This tool assesses key factors such as income, occupation, debt status, and livelihood activities to identify suitable beneficiaries for livestock support.

Engaging with Village Development Committees (VDCs) and Youth Champions (YCs), the project conducted orientation sessions to educate local leaders on the importance of selecting appropriate beneficiaries, encouraging transparency and accountability. Notably, Panchayat Presidents from Kalpattu, Guruvoyal, and Athangi Kavanur have been proactive in supporting the initiative, underscoring their commitment to community welfare. The detailed household data collected by the project team and local committees ensures that livelihood assistance reaches the right families.

The RISE II team also developed a comprehensive Case Analysis Tool to conduct a detailed survey of the poultry business in Anna Nagar. This tool ensures a fair and thorough selection process by gathering essential data about potential beneficiaries, including their knowledge of poultry farming, challenges, and long-term business goals.

## Empowering Community Women through Self-Help Groups

In the last quarter, the RISE II project significantly empowered women in Anna Nagar through self-help groups (SHGs). Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with the Joint Action Committee (JAC) and Livelihood Committee (LC) resulted in the Thazham Poo SHG members receiving loans of Rs. 30,000 each from the Cooperative Society Bank. This initiative marked the first step in transitioning community members from unskilled to skilled laborers and eventually to entrepreneurs.

### Key Success Stories:

**Jasmine Cultivation:** Four members—Latha, Nivetha, Lakshmi, and Vijaya—started jasmine cultivation businesses. They expect to harvest 900 kg of jasmine from April to July, with market rates between Rs. 650-700 per kg, and around 450 kg from August to November, with prices rising to Rs. 1,400-1,500 per kg.

**Saree Business:** Suguna leveraged her experience to start a saree business, successfully selling 20 to 25 sarees per month within her community. These initiatives have provided new livelihood opportunities, contributing to both personal growth and community economic development.



# NEW INITIATIVES



## WINGS Project (Women Intervention Network for Guidance and Support)

On September 12th, 2024, ADRA India and Red Rope Movement inaugurated the WINGS Project, a new drop-in center catering to the female survivors of human trafficking in Chhattarpur, Delhi. This collaborative initiative is designed to offer a holistic support system for survivors of trafficking, ensuring that they receive the care and resources necessary to rebuild their lives.

The drop in center will provide a range of essential services, including medical care, vocational training, repatriation assistance, and psycho-social counseling. Through these efforts, the WINGS Project aims to empower the survivors by giving them the tools and support to recover, heal, and eventually reintegrate into their own country.

This is a significant step forward in the fight against human trafficking and interventions to make a real difference in the lives of vulnerable individuals seeking refuge and recovery through project Wings.

## WISH Project: Water Initiative for Sanitation and Hygiene

A flood emergency response grant in three districts of Assam (Barpeta, Morigaon, and Dibrugarh), targeting 6,000 families from September 2024 to January 2025. The project focuses on WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) and includes:

- Distribution of water purification tablets
- Provision of hygiene kits
- Installation of water treatment plants
- Restoration of community toilets and sanitation facilities
- Public health awareness programs



## PACE Collaboration with Crazy Coconut

ADRA India has partnered with Crazy Coconut, a leading organization committed to sustainable development, to implement a groundbreaking project focused on the circular economy. This initiative aims to minimize waste and maximize resource efficiency through the principles of reduce, reuse, and recycle. By leveraging Crazy Coconut's expertise in eco-friendly practices, ADRA India aims to create lasting change in communities.

**STAFF WELL-BEING:** In July, August, and September 2024, we conducted a series of wellness sessions for ADRA India's staff focusing on key health topics to enhance the staff's well-being. In July, the session centered on understanding hepatitis, including its types, transmission, the importance of early detection and treatment, and daily prevention steps. August's session highlighted the importance of sleep hygiene and how it affects overall health and well-being. In September, the focus was on cardiovascular health, discussing common heart conditions, risk factors, and the significance of maintaining heart health.

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## CORE GROUP PARTNERS PROJECT



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Compassion  
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