

Sustaining Hope

ADRA INDIA'S NEWSLETTER

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Turning the Heat into Action: ADRA India's Leadership on Heatwave Preparedness & Anticipatory Action acResponse

As heatwaves intensify year after year, communities across India—particularly those in informal settlements, working outdoors, and without access to cooling—bear the brunt of extreme heat. In response to this growing crisis, ADRA India has emerged as a key player in driving community-centred, anticipatory action on heatwaves.

This year, we proudly released a landmark report in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Aktion Deutschland Hilft (ADH), titled “A Landscape Study of Diverse Climatic Zones on Anticipatory Action in Heatwaves – Indian Community Perspectives.” The study sheds light on lived experiences of heat stress across India’s diverse geographies and proposes actionable strategies—from localized early warnings to equitable cool zones—for protecting those most at risk. Launched at an NDMA-hosted event in New Delhi, the report has been hailed as a significant contribution to the national heat resilience discourse.

Building on this momentum, ADRA India co-organized a National Consultation on Anticipatory Action and Impact on Communities at Risk on May 7 at the NDMA office. The dialogue brought together over 100 participants—ranging from gig workers and health professionals to policy-makers and urban planners—to explore inclusive and practical solutions to heat-related challenges. Discussions ranged from the lack of shaded rest points and safe water access to integrating heat mitigation into urban planning and public health systems. Recommendations included piloting community interventions, launching a behavioural change campaign, and embedding anticipatory measures into State Heat Action Plans.

At the state level, ADRA India also led critical conversations through a State-Level Consultation on Disaster Preparedness and Anticipatory Action in Himachal Pradesh, under our Himachal Pradesh Disaster Risk Reduction (HPDRR) project. Attended by over 90 stakeholders from government, civil society, and community groups, the consultation featured a keynote by NDMA Member Dr. Krishna S. Vatsa and the launch of our publication “Anticipatory Action Activation.” Testimonies from community members powerfully underscored the urgent need to expand early warning systems and embed heat resilience into state strategies.

Our campaign went beyond consultations—ADRA India launched a public heatwave response and participated in multiple awareness events, webinars, and social media campaigns to keep the issue in focus. Together with our network and partners, we are moving the conversation from crisis response to anticipatory, preventive, and inclusive action.

As temperatures soar, ADRA India remains committed to building heat-resilient communities through research, collaboration, and bold action on the ground. *(Detailed report on pages 3 & 4)*



National consultation on Anticipatory Action on Heatwaves and Impact on Communities at Risk

HIGHLIGHTS

New Initiative - Strengthening Community Resilience in Assam: The SCORE Project



The SCORE project, launched in January 2025 and active until December 2026, is dedicated to strengthening community resilience in Assam's Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts. By focusing on livelihood support, entitlement linkages, and in-kind assistance, the project aims to build a more self-reliant and engaged community.

We laid the foundation by identifying the targeted villages and tea gardens, developing baseline and market assessment tools, and collaborating with key local and government stakeholders. Key activities included conducting focus group discussions in tea gardens and villages, and extending support to the Sanitary Pad Production Units established by ADRA India in both districts.

The project saw a noteworthy partnership with Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission (ASLRM), opening new avenues for collaboration.

ADRA India Signs MoU with DHL Group to Strengthen Emergency Response through Logistics Support

ADRA India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DHL Group (DHL) to enhance emergency response speed, quality, and effectiveness during natural disasters across India.

As part of the partnership, DHL will provide critical logistics support to ADRA India, including handling, sorting, inventory management, and temporary storage of relief materials at airports and other points of entry. This service will be provided at no cost to ADRA India, allowing the organization to focus on delivering humanitarian aid to communities affected by emergencies. This partnership reflects ADRA India's strategic commitment to investing in anticipatory action, preparedness, and locally led humanitarian response. DHL's deployment of its Disaster Response Team (DRT), trained to manage emergency logistics in high-pressure environments, adds unique operational strength to the partnership.



Training for Tomorrow: Building Community Readiness in Shimla and Solan

In the hill districts of Shimla and Solan, where unpredictable terrain often magnifies the impact of natural disasters, preparedness can make all the difference. Recognizing this, ADRA India conducted an eight-day Emergency Preparedness Training under the Himachal Pradesh Disaster Risk Reduction (HPDRR) project to equip local staff and volunteers with the skills needed to act swiftly and effectively in times of crisis.

From January 27–30, community members and ADRA staff gathered at Dhalli Panchayat in Shimla, where trainer Dr. Itinderpal Singh Bali led hands-on sessions on CPR, injury management, bleeding control, and disaster response strategies. The training then moved to Solan from January 31–February 3, where sessions expanded into fire safety and emergency simulations. The final day saw local dignitaries attending the certificate ceremony, underscoring the role of community leadership in building resilience.



HEATWAVE RESPONSE

ADRA India Launches Anticipatory Heatwave Response Across Four States

With India witnessing record-breaking temperatures early in 2025, ADRA India has rolled out a proactive Anticipatory Response Plan for Heatwaves to reduce the health and livelihood impacts of extreme heat across Delhi-NCR, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh.

In collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and local District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs), the initiative reflects ADRA's shift toward anticipatory action—intervening before a disaster strikes. The urgency is clear: in 2024 alone, India recorded 459 heat-related deaths and thousands of heatstroke cases, with forecasts warning of worsening conditions.

Key Elements of the Plan:

Cooling Centers: 20 community-based cooling centers will offer shaded spaces, drinking water, and hydration kits for vulnerable populations including outdoor workers, the elderly, and children.

Community Engagement: Trained Aapda Mitra volunteers and frontline workers will conduct awareness drives, distribute safety materials, and support early detection of heat-related illnesses.

Geographic Focus:

Delhi-NCR: Urban heat island effect and poor green cover

Gujarat: High temperatures and arid conditions in Saurashtra & Kutch

Maharashtra: Heat-humidity stress in Vidarbha & Marathwada

Madhya Pradesh: Frequent 45°C+ temperatures and poor water access

Drawing on lessons from global anticipatory models in Nepal and Bangladesh, ADRA India's initiative aims to reduce human suffering and ease pressure on local health systems.



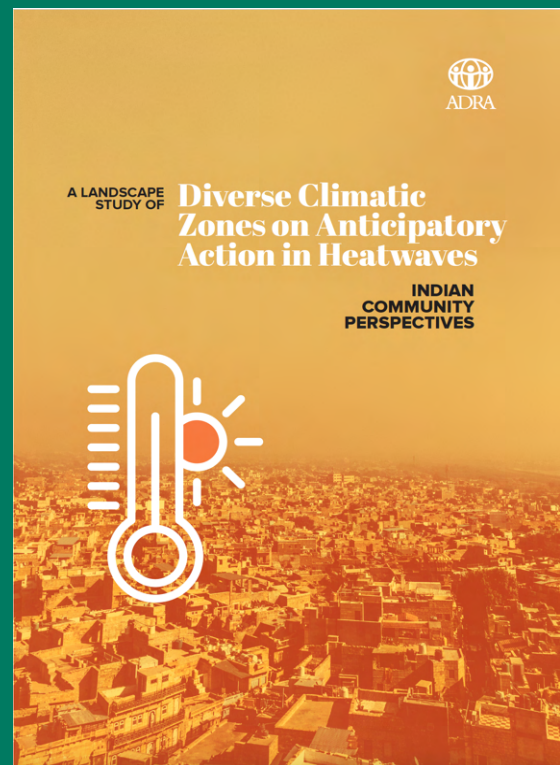
New Report Launch: Community Perspectives on Heatwave Anticipatory Action in India

ADRA India, in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), has launched a groundbreaking report titled: *"A Landscape Study of Diverse Climatic Zones on Anticipatory Action in Heatwaves – Indian Community Perspectives."*

Developed with support from Aktion Deutschland Hilft (ADH) and ICARS, the study examines the impacts of heatwaves across India's varied climatic zones and brings forward community-driven insights on anticipatory action. It outlines practical strategies and clearly defines the roles of stakeholders involved in reducing the risks associated with extreme heat.

Officially released today at an event hosted by NDMA, the report serves as a timely resource to strengthen heatwave preparedness, enhance resilience, and protect the most vulnerable populations.

This collaborative effort marks a significant step forward in aligning community perspectives with policy and action, as India faces increasingly intense and frequent heatwaves due to climate change.



HEATWAVE RESPONSE



Consultation in Himachal Pradesh Paves the Way for Anticipatory Action and Resilience

Shimla | April 24, 2025 — As natural disasters grow more frequent and severe in Himachal Pradesh, a state-level consultation was convened in Shimla to strengthen community resilience through anticipatory action. Organized by ADRA India in collaboration with the Himachal Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (HPSDMA), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), and the Government of Himachal Pradesh, the consultation aimed to foster sustainable solutions rooted in local knowledge and proactive planning.

Titled “Strengthening Community Resilience through Anticipatory Action: A Roadmap for Sustainable Development in Himachal Pradesh,” the dialogue brought together representatives from government bodies, NGOs, academic institutions, and grassroots organizations. ADRA India launched a “Study on Anticipatory Action in Himachal Pradesh”, highlighting proactive, data-driven measures to strengthen community resilience against climate-induced disasters through early risk reduction and preparedness.

The event is part of ADRA India’s Disaster Preparedness and Early Recovery Support project, supported by ADRA Germany, which focuses on enhancing disaster preparedness, early recovery, and anticipatory action in disaster-prone regions of the state. Following the devastating 2023 monsoons across Shimla, Solan, and Kullu, the urgency of proactive and community-led disaster risk reduction has never been greater.

Key Objectives of the Consultation:

- Share field-level learnings and good practices
- Encourage cross-sectoral dialogue on preparedness and anticipatory action
- Strengthen collaboration between state agencies, civil society, and communities
- Promote the integration of DRR into local and state development plans
- Explore sustainable livelihood and resilience pathways

Thematic Focus Areas:

Community-Based Disaster Preparedness: Lessons from VDMCs, DMRCs, and early warning systems
Anticipatory Action: Strengthening institutional readiness and rapid response capabilities

National Consultation on Heatwave Resilience Held in New Delhi

ADRA India, in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), hosted a National Consultation on Anticipatory Action on Heatwaves and Impact on Communities at Risk.

The event brought together voices from across sectors—informal workers, urban planners, government, health experts, and civil society—to address real challenges faced during heatwaves, including food spoilage, health risks, and lack of cooling/rest points for outdoor workers.

Key recommendations included:

- Localized early warning systems
- Cool zones and hydration points
- Gender-sensitive and child-friendly measures
- A national behavioural change campaign

The consultation emphasized a multi-stakeholder approach to heatwave preparedness and integrating heat resilience into State Heat Action Plans, paving the way for more inclusive, proactive community strategies.

HEALTH



BRIDGE-UP Project: Boosting Routine Immunization in Uttar Pradesh

Under ADRA India’s BRIDGE-UP project, the team has been identifying the most vulnerable communities through data analysis and consultations with health officials since January. Entry-level activities like social mapping and community engagement have been rolled out across all 766 ASHA areas, laying the groundwork for deeper outreach.

A key highlight during this period has been the training of 640 Frontline Workers (FLWs) in communication skills, equipping them to effectively engage with families on routine immunization and primary healthcare. Complementing this, 2,757 local influencers—including respected elders like Nana-Nani and Dada-Dadi—were oriented to mobilize families and address vaccine hesitancy. These efforts led to 305 influencer meetings and 583 community structure orientations, collectively reaching over 17,800 individuals and an estimated total of 76,000 people.

In April, ADRA launched targeted community mobilization interventions to reduce the number of zero-dose children in 15 districts. Street plays were conducted in 20 low-performing areas of Bareilly and Badaun to build mass awareness. Teacher Orientation Trainings were held in Azamgarh, Badaun, Jaunpur, and Shahjahanpur, while street vendor meetings took place in Azamgarh and Bareilly. Barbers were oriented as influential community touchpoints in Ballia and Jaunpur, and Zila Panchayat Member Orientation Trainings were organized in Ghazipur and Ballia to strengthen local leadership support for immunization.

Community influencers have played a vital role in identifying zero-dose and missed children, understanding vaccination barriers, convincing parents and caregivers, and ensuring complete immunization. During World Immunization Week (April 24-30, 2025), ADRA engaged local influencers, oriented frontline workers, and addressed myths and misconceptions through mass awareness and community mobilization activities. These included children’s rallies, meetings with grandparents, influencer meetings, and cluster meetings with FLWs. ADRA also supported government initiatives like the Hazi vaccination drive in Bareilly and the Td vaccination campaign in schools across all 15 intervention areas. Through these April initiatives alone, ADRA reached over 10,000 individuals.

EVENTS

Strengthening Dairy Livelihoods through State-Level Convergence in Assam

As part of the PRECISE project, ADRA India convened a State-Level Convergence Workshop on Dairy Production Status and Practices in Guwahati, Assam, on April 22, 2025. The workshop brought together a diverse group of stakeholders from the livestock, veterinary, and dairy sectors to strengthen collaboration and dialogue around Assam’s growing dairy industry.

Participants included senior officials from the Directorate of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Development (AHVD), Dairy Development Assam, Assam Livestock Development Agency (ALDA), College of Veterinary Sciences, Khanapara, and KVK Kamrup, alongside representatives from dairy cooperatives, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), insurance providers, livelihood and wildlife NGOs, veterinary professionals, and dairy farmers. ADRA India’s senior management team was also present to guide discussions and share insights. The workshop aimed to establish a multi-agency convergence platform to promote coordinated efforts in organizing and supporting small-scale dairy farmers. With Assam’s dairy sector showing significant potential, this initiative marks an important step toward creating sustainable livelihoods and enhancing veterinary and dairy practices through collective action.



EVENTS

Road Safety and Health Drive for Commercial Drivers in Aizawl, Mizoram

ADRA India, in partnership with Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd., and in collaboration with the Aizawl Traffic Police, organized a five-day Road Safety Awareness and Health Check-up Camp for commercial drivers from February 17–21, 2025, at the Vaivakawn Cultural Centre in Aizawl, Mizoram. The initiative aimed to promote safe driving practices and improve the health and well-being of commercial drivers, including taxi, truck, and lorry drivers.

The event was inaugurated by senior officials of Mizoram Police—Mr. Stephen Lalrinawma, Sr. SP Traffic, and Mrs. Sarah Lalrinkimi, Addl. SP Traffic—along with Mr. Zoramawia Tocchawng, Dealer Principal of Zote Toyota Aizawl. The dignitaries emphasized the importance of road safety, driver welfare, and the specific challenges of driving in Aizawl, including weather conditions and narrow, curved roads.

The program featured a structured flow: a road safety session led by experts, followed by a comprehensive health check-up. The presentations covered key areas such as proper use of helmets and seatbelts, the dangers of drunk driving, the need for up-to-date documents (license, RC, insurance, PUC), and the importance of self-care and driver fitness. Health screenings included tests for vitals, blood sugar, liver and kidney function, ECG, and consultations with general physicians, cardiologists, ophthalmologists, ENT specialists, and lifestyle coaches.

Across the five days, 791 drivers participated in the initiative. The health component of the camp proved to be a critical intervention, identifying 12 serious cardiac cases—including hypertension, angina, and myocardial infarctions—which were immediately referred to local government hospitals for further care.

The campaign was supported by professional medical teams from both government and private hospitals, and media coverage included a short film and a detailed documentary. A key learning was the importance of enhanced driver mobilization for such efforts. With 95% of participants expressing satisfaction, this initiative served as a valuable model for CSR-led interventions in road safety and occupational health.

Reflect. Refine. Rebuild: HPDRR Lesson Learnt Workshop in Chandigarh

On March 18–19, 2025, ADRA India held a two-day Lessons Learnt and Reflection Workshop in Chandigarh, bringing together project teams, ADRA Germany, the Country Office, and partner organization All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI.) The workshop aimed to reflect on the HPDRR project's journey—what worked, what didn't, and how to strengthen disaster risk reduction in the future.

Key discussions covered community disaster preparedness, VDMC formation, the inauguration of the DMRC, livelihood and enterprise development, and strategies for long-term sustainability. Participants engaged in interactive group sessions to share district-wise learnings, challenges, and impact stories from the field.

A presentation from AIDMI provided insights from a recent livelihood assessment, emphasizing skills development, accountability, and government convergence. Sessions on communication, financial analysis, and outreach highlighted the importance of data, messaging, and local ownership in ensuring resilient communities.

The workshop concluded with a renewed commitment to building on successes, addressing gaps, and enhancing community-based disaster preparedness efforts across Himachal Pradesh.



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Building Disaster-Resilient WASH Infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh

In flood-affected regions of Himachal Pradesh, inadequate sanitation has long posed serious health risks—especially for school-going children. Many schools and communities lack proper toilets, forcing people to resort to open defecation, which contaminates water sources and increases vulnerability to waterborne diseases. For low-income households, access to essential Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) facilities remains out of reach, compounding the crisis during and after disasters.

As part of the Himachal Pradesh Disaster Risk Reduction (HPDRR) Project, ADRA India has taken concrete steps to address these challenges. Renovation and construction of WASH facilities are underway in nine schools across Shimla and Solan districts, with over 600 students and staff set to benefit from improved hygiene infrastructure. One additional school in Kullu district has also been selected for similar upgrades.

The goal is not just better sanitation today, but long-term resilience. These structures are being built to withstand future disasters, ensuring continuity in health and hygiene even during emergencies.

- Key actions under this initiative include:
- Repairing and upgrading toilets and handwashing stations
 - Improving drainage and waste management systems
 - Promoting hygiene awareness among students and the wider community

By integrating disaster preparedness into school infrastructure, ADRA India is helping transform vulnerable schools into safer, healthier spaces.



Empowering Communities through Skill Development and Livelihood Initiatives

ADRA India continues its commitment to building sustainable livelihoods through a series of impactful skill development initiatives.

In Garsa Panchayat, Kullu, 23 women from SHGs received training in traditional shawl and pattu weaving from February 14-23, 2025. Supported by 11 weaving looms and raw materials from ADRA India, these women are now equipped to tap into Kullu’s strong market for handwoven products. Local authorities and partners have promised further marketing support to help them establish sustainable weaving enterprises.

In Damdar village, Solan, a two-day mushroom cultivation workshop was held on March 12-13, 2025. Eight farmers learned key mushroom farming techniques, including compost preparation and post-harvest handling, with plans to receive 500 compost bags for launching their cultivation efforts.

Finally, in Rajhana, 20 women from the Ornament Group received essential plier sets for jewellery making, boosting their confidence and productivity to create high-quality products and establish reliable income streams.

Through these initiatives, ADRA India is strengthening community livelihoods and creating pathways for long-term economic stability.



LIVELIHOOD

From Poultry to Prosperity: A New Livelihood Takes Flight in Tiruvallur

This quarter, ADRA India's RISE II project rolled out its Individual Livelihood Assistance Program, focusing on goat and poultry farming as sustainable income-generating options for vulnerable households. In its first phase, five selected families FROM yenambakkam, Tamil Nadu received 20 chickens and metal cages, following hands-on training in poultry management. What may seem like a simple handover of livestock, in reality, marks the beginning of a long-term journey towards economic independence.

The training, held in Anna Nagar and Yenambakkam, equipped 80 local participants—many of them women and unemployed youth—with essential knowledge on breed selection, disease control, shelter building, and entrepreneurial planning. The sessions went beyond technical inputs; they were confidence-building experiences that turned hesitance into action.

To widen the net of livelihood opportunities, an introductory session on mushroom cultivation was also held in Pandeswaram. Women from landless households showed strong interest in this household-friendly, low-investment farming technique. With guidance on hygiene, setup, and post-harvest care, the session served as a gateway to nutritional security and supplemental income.

All these efforts are supported through a strategic partnership with the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS), whose technical inputs continue to enrich the program with current best practices in livestock health and management.

Skill Building Through Sustainability under PACE Project

In Guruvoyal village, the PACE project tackled two pressing challenges: solid waste management and rural unemployment. In partnership with Bamboo House India, ADRA India organized an 11-day hands-on workshop training 25 participants in crafting lampshades using recycled textile and plastic waste.

The training was both technical and empowering:

- Participants created fully functional lamps and boxes using recycled ropes.
- They adapted well to handling non-traditional materials.
- Plans are underway to support these artisans with entrepreneurship and marketing skills so they can begin selling products both locally and online.

In Kalpattu village, 25 vulnerable families received a simple yet powerful form of livelihood support: 20 chickens and a metal cage per household. The provision was part of a newly launched Individual Livelihood Assistance Program to promote small-scale poultry farming as a reliable income-generating activity.

Before the distributions, beneficiaries were trained in chicken farming practices—covering feeding, care, and disease prevention—with support from local panchayat representatives and ADRA India's field staff.

Localization in Action: The Livelihood Committee Model

To ensure long-term sustainability, ADRA facilitated the formation of a Livelihood Committee in Guruvoyal—composed of 10 local members trained to:

- Monitor livestock health and productivity.
- Support community members in solving issues like disease outbreaks and feed shortages.
- Facilitate market linkages and explore cooperative models.
- Train others in best practices, veterinary services, and sustainable farming.



LIVELIHOOD

Transforming Livelihoods Through Dairy Farming: The PRECISE Project in Assam



The PRECISE project—short for Dairy Production & Genetic Enhancement through Resources, Innovation, and Community Empowerment—continues to strengthen smallholder dairy farming in Baksa, Assam. Focused on boosting food security and incomes, the project is building local capacity in breed improvement, nutrition, and sustainable livestock practices.

This quarter marked a key milestone: four AI (Artificial Insemination) workers successfully completed advanced training at BAIF Allahabad, enabling better access to quality breeding services. A total of 245 dairy farmers received free AI services, and 956 units of sex-sorted semen were procured, along with essential equipment. These interventions are designed to enhance cattle productivity and improve long-term livelihoods.

In all, 786 farmers (525 women and 261 men) participated in trainings and awareness activities. Farmers were also linked to cooperatives and government programs to strengthen their market access and institutional support

Partnerships and Learning

Strategic partnerships drove progress, with an MoU signed with Assam Livestock Development Agency. Collaborations with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and Agriculture Insurance Company of India expanded technical support and introduced subsidized cattle insurance. Technical linkages with KVK Baksa, Barpeta Bull Semen Farm, and BAIF further supported fodder promotion and dairy development.

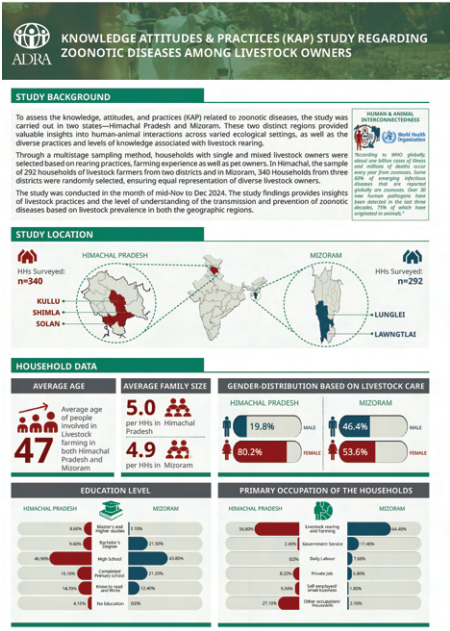
Key lessons from the quarter highlighted the importance of continuous capacity building, gender-responsive programming, and better budgeting for implementation.

ADRA India Launches KAP Study on Zoonotic Diseases Among Livestock Owners

ADRA India successfully launched the findings of our latest Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) Study on Zoonotic Diseases among Livestock Owners during the state-level consultation in Guwahati last week.

Conducted across Himachal Pradesh and Mizoram, this study highlights critical insights into livestock practices, zoonotic disease awareness, and the interconnectedness of human and animal health.

Our findings call for stronger community-based health initiatives and greater collaboration between sectors to build more resilient communities.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Water Tank Support for Fire-Affected Families in Himachal Pradesh

On January 1, 2025, a major fire—triggered by an electrical short circuit in a cowshed—swept through Tandi village in Banjar, Kullu district, Himachal Pradesh. Fueled by dry grass and Deodar wood homes built close together, the fire destroyed 21 houses and six cowsheds, and partially damaged four more. Thankfully, there were no human or animal casualties, but 112 residents, primarily from the Thakur community, lost homes and essential belongings.

On March 24, ADRA India, in coordination with the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and under the guidance of Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Banjar, distributed 21 Sintex Hero Water Tanks (1000L each) to the worst-affected families. This was a critical need as families began rebuilding with limited access to water.

With temporary tents serving as shelters, the tanks are supporting daily needs and reconstruction efforts. The intervention is part of ADRA India’s Himachal Pradesh Disaster Risk Reduction (HPDRR) Project, which continues to strengthen local preparedness and resilience.

By addressing urgent needs with practical support, ADRA India remains committed to helping disaster-affected communities recover and rebuild with dignity.



Restoring Health and Dignity: WASH Support in Flood-Affected Assam

In the aftermath of devastating floods in Assam, ADRA India launched the WISH project to provide emergency WASH support in 30 villages across Dibrugarh, Barpeta, and Morigaon. Running from September 2024 to January 2025, the project focused on restoring access to safe water, repairing sanitation infrastructure, and promoting hygiene practices for children and their communities.

To address urgent water needs, nine mobile water treatment units were installed, reaching 503 households. ADRA trained Water User Committees and PHED officials across nine locations to manage and maintain the units, ensuring long-term usability.

The project also focused on sanitation—80 damaged toilets were repaired (19 in Dibrugarh, 33 in Morigaon, 28 in Barpeta), restoring safe and dignified facilities for approximately 2,500 people.

Twelve Participatory Hygiene Promotion (PHP) sessions reached 487 people directly and 2,191 indirectly, covering essential topics like handwashing, safe water storage, and menstrual hygiene.

A Post-Distribution Monitoring survey with 497 participants confirmed the project’s effectiveness, while a strong partnership with the PHED department ensured smooth installation and water quality assurance.

Though short in duration, WISH delivered lasting impact—strengthening community resilience and helping flood-affected families rebuild healthier lives.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Wayanad Recovery Project: Rebuilding Lives Through Livelihood Support

The Wayanad Recovery Project, implemented in Noolpuzha and Meppadi in Wayanad, Kerala, is supporting 58 disaster-affected families in rebuilding their livelihoods. Running from November 2024 to April 2025, the project focuses on skill-building, market linkages, and providing tailored toolkits to help women and youth generate sustainable income.

In this quarter, 38 beneficiaries received skill-based toolkits after completing training in financial literacy and digital marketing, while 20 families received poultry-based livelihood kits that included 15 birds, a cage, and 50 kg of feed. Two community-based groups were also formed and trained to lead local recovery and resilience initiatives.

The project has collaborated with Panchayati Raj Institutions and identified local training institutes to strengthen its integrated support model. With a strong focus on community-led development, the initiative is enabling vulnerable households to move towards economic stability and long-term recovery.



Baiju’s Story: Rebuilding from the Ground Up

Baiju, a 44-year-old carpenter from Chooralmala, Meppady, had spent years building a modest but stable life for his family. When a landslide hit his village, that stability collapsed overnight. His house was badly damaged, his land and crops were destroyed, and he lost the tools that were central to his trade.

The disaster displaced the family, forcing them to move in with relatives. Along with the financial impact came emotional strain. Baiju’s wife suffered a head injury during the incident and required treatment. Their two children, both in school, have since grown fearful of loud weather — especially thunderstorms — which remind them of the day their world shifted.

Unable to work without his carpentry tools, Baiju had no source of income. The situation left him feeling helpless and unsure of how to move forward.

Recognizing his skills and urgent need for support, ADRA India, in partnership with Meppady Grama Panchayath, identified Baiju as a priority for livelihood restoration. He received a tailored carpentry tool kit, enabling him to return to work.

The support became a turning point. Baiju began reconnecting with past clients and slowly rebuilding his small business. With income starting to flow again, he was able to meet his family’s daily needs and plan for what comes next.

Today, Baiju continues to recover. While the trauma of the landslide lingers, having his livelihood back has given him and his family a sense of direction. His story is a reminder of how timely, practical support can help people regain control and begin again.



PROTECTION

Promoting Self-Reliance through Safe Migration and Peaceful Co-existence in Tamil Nadu

ADRA India's PSSP project, running until June 2025, empowers Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu to make informed migration decisions, access documentation, and avoid risky maritime journeys. Key activities include operating Drop-in Centres and a toll-free helpline, conducting advocacy with Indian and Sri Lankan governments, and raising awareness to prevent illegal migration.

In the last quarter, the project organized 73 Women's Day programs across 70 camps and 3 non-camp areas, reaching 3,650 refugee women. These events featured motivational speeches, games, cultural performances, and group discussions to promote women's empowerment and self-reliance. Key partners supporting the project include the Sri Lankan High Commission, Tamil Nadu's Commissionerate of Rehabilitation, UNHCR India, and local community stakeholders in Kerala's coastal districts.

Additionally, in April, ADRA facilitated a Career Guidance Programme in collaboration with Don Bosco Vazhikatti. The session provided 22 students from Class 9 to Post-Graduation with insights into career pathways in engineering, arts and science, commerce, agriculture, and paramedical fields.

In the Livelihood Hub, four dedicated beneficiaries worked on stitching orders placed through a technical partner, who appointed a master tailor to guide them. In April, they completed 114 nursing uniform pants, 33 kurtis, and 93 nighties, collectively earning around Rs. 10,000. Moreover, two beneficiaries received support through the Livelihood Assistance Programme. One, engaged in home-based food production, was equipped with essential supplies and tools to expand her cooking business. The other, working as a beautician, received upgraded tools and products to enhance her services. These efforts are helping them boost their businesses, increase their income, and move towards economic stability.



Story of Impact: Empowering Women through Skill-Building: Subashini's Journey

Subashini, a Sri Lankan refugee who migrated to India in 2006, has been living in Valasaravakkam, Tiruvallur District with her husband and two sons. While her husband has supported the family as a driver, Subashini has always nurtured a passion for tailoring, stitching clothes for her family and taking small home-based orders.

Subashini's journey with ADRA India began eight years ago when she joined small group meetings conducted in her community. These meetings introduced her to various skill-building and livelihood assistance opportunities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, ADRA India provided her with essential groceries and Rs. 5,000 per month for three months, helping her family cope during the crisis.

Six years ago, Subashini received a tailoring machine from ADRA India, which enabled her to start taking orders and supplementing her family's income. Her engagement deepened when she joined ADRA's Livelihood Hub, a dedicated space for skill training and income generation for refugee women.

At the Livelihood Hub, Subashini enrolled in the Skill Training in Tailoring Course, where she refined her techniques and expanded her stitching skills. She began working on stitching orders for nursing uniforms, kurtis, and nighties, earning consistent income and building financial independence. Currently, she is working on her fifth order at the hub. Through ADRA India's support, Subashini has transformed her passion into a steady livelihood, contributing to her family's income and gaining confidence in her abilities.





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