

SUSTAINING HOPE

ADRA India's Newsletter

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A New Chapter of Leadership: Santhosh Srikanth Pattar Appointed Country Director of ADRA India

In a significant milestone for the organisation, Mr. Santhosh Srikanth Pattar has officially been appointed as the Country Director of ADRA India. With nearly 15 years of dedicated service to the organisation, Santhosh brings not only deep institutional knowledge but also a steadfast commitment to ADRA's mission of serving humanity.

Santhosh began his journey with ADRA India in 2010 as an Accounts Officer, steadily rising through the ranks to become Finance Director, a role in which he provided strategic oversight of all financial, contractual, audit, and compliance matters. Known for his calm leadership and precise execution, he has been instrumental in strengthening ADRA's financial systems and governance structure over the years. Beyond his expertise in donor grant management and policy formulation, Santhosh has been a guiding force in internal capacity building and financial accountability.

His professional training includes certifications from Mango on financial strategy and Humentum on fraud prevention and sustainability, both of which have shaped his approach to ethical and transparent leadership. Holding degrees in Commerce from Spicer Memorial College and Postgraduate studies from Madurai Kamaraj Open University, Santhosh combines academic depth with practical foresight.

Santhosh's appointment marks a new era for ADRA India, one that builds on institutional continuity while embracing innovation, collaboration, and field-driven growth. The team congratulates him and looks forward to working under his thoughtful and future-ready leadership.



I am deeply humbled and grateful to begin this new chapter as the Country Director of ADRA India. At a time when the world faces increasing complexity, from climate change to displacement, from inequality to disaster recovery, our role as a humanitarian agency must be grounded in justice, love, and compassion.

My vision is to strengthen ADRA India as a trusted partner in restoring dignity, resilience, and hope for the most vulnerable communities across India. I am committed to building a culture of excellence, inclusion, and accountability where our team, partners, and communities are not just implementers but co-creators of impact.

Together with our dedicated staff, board, partners, and global ADRA family, I look forward to expanding our reach and deepening our impact because every life matters."

**Santhosh Srikanth Pattar,
Country Director, ADRA India**

Highlights

National Consultation on Heatwaves Held with NDMA

On May 7, 2025, ADRA India had the privilege of co-organizing a National Consultation on Anticipatory Action for Heatwaves and Their Impact on Communities at Risk, in partnership with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). Hosted at the NDMA office in New Delhi, the event brought together a wide range of voices, such as gig and informal workers, government representatives, urban planners, health professionals, and civil society groups.

Discussions centred on the lived realities of communities during extreme heat: food and water spoilage, health vulnerabilities, and the lack of shade and rest points for outdoor workers. Solutions discussed included localized early warning systems, cool zones, and child-friendly safe spaces in urban hotspots.

The event concluded with three key next steps:

- Piloting community-level interventions
- Launching a national behavioural change campaign
- Integrating heat resilience into public infrastructure and systems

This consultation marked a significant step toward collaborative, forward-looking approaches to protecting vulnerable communities from the escalating risks of extreme heat.



Corporate Roundtable at IIM Bangalore: Strengthening Disaster Preparedness through Private Sector Engagement



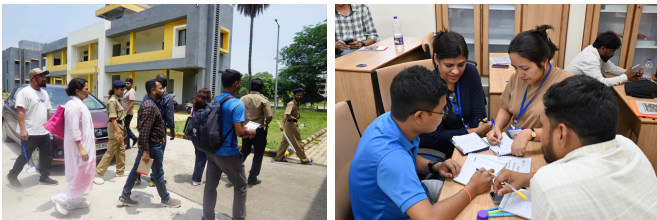
On June 3, 2025, ADRA India, in partnership with the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore, convened a landmark Corporate Roundtable on “Leveraging Private Sector Expertise for Enhancing Early Action in Disaster Preparedness.” The event brought together a diverse mix of stakeholders from government, academia, philanthropy, and industry to explore collaborative approaches for disaster resilience in India.



The day featured dynamic conversations that moved beyond theory into practice. From tech-driven early warning systems and AI-powered solutions to grassroots innovations and CSR-led interventions, speakers shared real-world examples of how the private sector is already contributing to disaster preparedness and response. Lively discussions unpacked the potential of cross-sector partnerships, emphasized the role of data and community engagement, and spotlighted emerging models of corporate responsibility in times of crisis.



This multi-sectoral dialogue underscored the urgent need for collective action and innovation in disaster preparedness. The discussions highlighted the pivotal role that private sector capabilities—such as AI, blended finance, and supply chain expertise—can play in strengthening community resilience and early action mechanisms. ADRA India remains committed to facilitating such impactful conversations that drive coordinated, sustainable, and inclusive disaster response systems.



'HEAT' for Safer Humanitarian Response

From May 20-24, 2025, ADRA India, in collaboration with RedR India, conducted a five-day Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT) in Guwahati, Assam. Designed to prepare frontline staff for challenging and high-risk operational environments, the training focused on safety, security, and resilience for humanitarian professionals.

A total of 21 participants, including team members from Mizoram, Manipur, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and the country office, engaged in intensive sessions on threat assessment, incident reporting, first aid, kidnap survival, and navigation under pressure. Real-life simulations, role-play exercises, and demonstrations created a dynamic and immersive learning environment.



ADRA India holds Program Strategy Meet

On June 27, 2025, ADRA India hosted its Program Strategy Meet, marking a pivotal step toward aligning future programming with a unified, purpose-driven vision.

During the session, teams collectively shaped a renewed Vision Framework for 2025-2030, while placing special focus on two foundational pillars: Health and Livelihood.

Through collaborative workshops, participants defined strategic goals, measurable objectives, indicators, and outcome pathways, laying a strong foundation for the next generation of ADRA India's work.



Disaster Response

Heatwave Response Update:

ADRA India recently marked the formal closure of its Heatwave Anticipatory Response initiative. This project began as a preventive measure and evolved into a community movement.

Over the course of the response, ADRA targeted Delhi, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

22

Cooling Centres
established

153

Frontline Workers
trained

80

Street Theatre
performances

4800+

Community members
engaged

3750

ORS Sachets
distributed

5000+

IEC Materials shared

5100+

Students sensitized
across **18 schools**

1,000+

Trees planted to
improve natural
shade

Alongside these targeted interventions, heatwave preparedness was embedded into all ongoing projects.

Health

BRIDGE | Uttar Pradesh

Across 15 districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh, BRIDGE's frontline teams moved beyond pamphlets- immersing themselves in village life to understand mothers' concerns regarding immunisation. In May, 133 Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA), Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM), and Anganwadi Workers (AWW) attended a two-day communication workshop where they role-played simulated real objections that they faced in the communities, such as "It's too many vaccines," "I heard about side effects".

They learned to replace technical jargon with simple terms, explaining germs as "invisible bugs," reassuring caregivers with follow-up visits, and involving local influencers like priests, teachers, and SHG leaders in dialogues. Trainees learned to pivot from technical jargon to everyday language- how to explain germs like "invisible bugs," how to reassure caregivers with follow-up visits, and how to involve local influencers (priests, schoolteachers, SHG leaders) in community dialogues.

ADRA India has also so far trained 152 community-based structures on zero-dose, community accountability and on facilitating Routine Immunization (RI) services. These structures, including- Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI), Urban Local Bodies/Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Committees (ULBs/VHSNCs)/Mahila Arogya Samitis (MAS), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and Community Action Groups – on zero-dose, community accountability and on facilitating Routine Immunization (RI) services, played a significant role in the demand generation of immunization.



Dada-dadi (grandparent) meetings



Frontline Workers Training

Through sustained advocacy and engagement at district and block levels, ADRA India is strengthening local health systems. One key initiative ensures that ASHAs follow up with hesitant children within 24 hours of vaccination. As a result, 65% of these children were successfully reached, helping to build caregiver trust.

Community influencers, frontline workers (FLWs), and local structures like Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committees (VHSNCs), SHGs, and PRIs helped link 324 zero-dose children with RI services, mobilizing hesitant families and improving coverage.

It Starts With One Voice

Hadha is the kind of village where word of mouth still matters. One conversation can change a family's decision. That's where Tara Sharma steps in.

Tara lost her husband in an accident some years ago. She now lives with her two children—a 17-year-old daughter and an 11-year-old son. Both have received all their childhood vaccines. So when a periodic routine immunisation meeting came up in her area in February 2025, you'd think Tara had little reason to attend.

But she showed up anyway. "I came because there are still children in our neighbourhood who haven't been vaccinated. Someone has to talk to their parents," she said plainly.

The meeting was part of ADRA India's BRIDGE-UP project, launched in partnership with UNICEF just six months earlier across 15 districts of Uttar Pradesh. Still in its early days, the project focuses on areas with low immunisation coverage, particularly where vaccine hesitancy or missed doses are common. The idea is simple: strengthen systems, equip ASHAs and local influencers, and create space for honest conversations with families who've been unsure, overlooked, or left out.



Hadha was among several areas identified as having a high burden of zero-dose children—those who had never received a single vaccine. This wasn't a standalone issue; across rural Uttar Pradesh, patterns of vaccine hesitancy run deep. In many communities, the reasons are similar: a mix of limited access, misinformation, and a deep-seated belief in divine over disease prevention and modern medicine.

Tara doesn't have a formal role in this system, but in many ways, she's exactly the kind of person the project hopes to reach, and work with. She listens. She learns. And then she shares.

"Our ASHA here is really good," she says. "She keeps us informed. But it's not just her job. If I know something, I tell others. If someone says they won't get their child vaccinated, I explain why they should." She doesn't use big health terms. She speaks from what she knows. That vaccines help prevent illnesses like pneumonia, diarrhoea, and measles. That it's better to protect a child early than deal with hospital visits later. She's already seen some neighbours change their minds after these meetings. It doesn't happen overnight. But it happens.

The BRIDGE-UP project is still in its early phase. It'll take time before we see a sharp rise in immunisation numbers or a drop in zero-dose cases. But the shift has begun, and it's taking root through people like Tara.

Livelihood

HPDRR | Himachal Pradesh

As part of ADRA India's HPDRR project in Himachal Pradesh, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Dhamdar village, Solan, were supported to initiate mushroom cultivation as a livelihood option.

8 Self-Help Group (SHG) members received 500 oyster mushroom bags following training by experts from the University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni. ADRA India facilitated vendor selection, ensured quality spawn, and supported the SHGs through setup and production, enabling income generation through low-investment, home-based farming.

In Kullu district, ADRA India supported 16 families in Rogna and Kharna villages to set up build four community vermicompost pits. Each pit, managed by four households, introduced sustainable practices and a new income source through organic fertilizer sales. Beneficiaries were trained in waste segregation, composting, and maintenance. Both interventions offer practical, resource-aligned livelihoods suited to local conditions. The initiative introduced environmentally sustainable practices while providing an additional income stream through the sale of organic fertilizer. Beneficiaries were trained in waste segregation, composting methods, and upkeep, with each group of four households managing one pit jointly. Both interventions provided accessible livelihood options that align with local resources and seasonal constraints.



Distribution of Oyster Mushroom



Vermicompost pit



SCORE | Assam

The SCORE Project, active in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts of Assam, continues to support rural youth, particularly from tea garden communities in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts of Assam, with access to sustainable livelihoods.

In May and June, 12 youth began vocational training in tailoring at the Chabua Skill Training Centre. The team also held a meeting with VIVO Skill and Training LLP to discuss collaboration on skill training.

ADRA India also held community meetings, engaging 66 more youth, introducing livelihood options, and building ties with local government and civil society. Upcoming initiatives include mushroom cultivation and goat-rearing, aligning with goals of gender equality, climate resilience, and localisation.

PRECISE | Assam

A milestone moment marked this quarter in Baksa, Assam, as two healthy female calves were born as a result of the project's Artificial Insemination (AI) initiative- the first recorded births under the PRECISE Project. For the families involved, these calves represent improved access to breed enhancement, veterinary services, and long-term dairy viability.



Services were delivered in partnership with the State Veterinary Dispensary (Soudarvitha) and the Veterinary Health Officer of Baganpara Block.

Beyond technical inputs, PRECISE has emphasized climate-adapted practices, financial protection, and women-led decision-making in dairy production. As the project enters Year 2, upcoming plans include biosecurity training, hygiene in milk handling, and a new round of capacity development for women dairy farmers.



99

Artificial Inseminations were facilitated through project-supported coordination

153

farmers enrolled in livestock insurance through Nagaland Rural Bank

25

farmers were trained on heat detection and AI practices during a two-day workshop

150

households established homestead-level green fodder plots, supported with fodder slips

39

Farmer Interest Group (FIG) leaders participated in governance and gender-equity training

552

animals were vaccinated against Foot and Mouth Disease and Lumpy Skin Disease

RISE & PACE | Tamil Nadu

Across intervention areas in Tiruvallur district, ADRA India's Tamil Nadu RISE and PACE projects continued advancing women's economic empowerment, collective action, and access to opportunity.

From the RISE Project,

- Five women in Yenambakkam village piloted backyard country chicken rearing and quickly progressed to egg hatching, setting 65 eggs and successfully raising 25 live chicks, a first step toward value chain integration. Plans are now underway to scale the initiative using community-led incubation and egg sales.
- In Pandeswaram, 20 women were trained in mushroom cultivation through a three-day technical program, with a focus on sustainable practices and kitchen-based models.
- 3 new SHGs were formed, and one SHG was registered with a mainstream bank, expanding credit access.
- Additionally, 12 members from marginalised communities received loans of ₹1,00,000 each through the TAHDCO government scheme to initiate income-generating activities, with support from local financial institutions.



Simultaneously, the PACE Project strengthened financial literacy and local entrepreneurship.

- In Athangi Kavanur, 25 SHG, youth, and VDC members were trained in budgeting, digital banking, and accessing government financial schemes.
- The project also held capacity-building sessions focused on increasing awareness of key government social entitlement schemes, with special emphasis on those designed for women and children.

Across both RISE and PACE projects, ADRA India's approach emphasises localisation, gender equity, and on practical adaptation to climate realities.



Protection

PSSP | Tamil Nadu



The PSSP Project (Promote Self-Reliance through Safe Migration and Peaceful Co-existence), spanning 19 districts in Tamil Nadu, marked a major highlight this quarter with a vibrant World Refugee Day solidarity event in Chennai. Organised in partnership with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Organisation for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation (OfERR), Loyola College, and The Residency Towers Hotels, the celebration brought Sri Lankan refugees into the spotlight as hosts.

Refugees set up pop-up food stalls across major corporate locations, showcasing traditional Sri Lankan dishes. The event drew strong public engagement and media interest, reaffirming ADRA India's emphasis on community empowerment and self-reliance. Dignitaries, including Member of Parliament (MP) Ms. Kanimozhi Karunanidhi, Commissioner of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils, Dr. M. Vallalar, IAS, the Minister for Minorities and NRT Welfare, S.M. Nasar, and the Deputy Chief of Mission, UNHCR India, Ms. Margriet Veenma, applauded efforts to integrate refugees through economic inclusion and state schemes.

Alongside the main community event, the project facilitated several field-level engagements aimed at awareness and empowerment:

- 32 small group meetings were conducted across different settlements, focusing on illegal migration risks, available government schemes, and information dissemination to help individuals make informed, and safe decisions.
- 2 exposure visits were organized for refugee women, who travelled from the ADRA Livelihood Hub to a local tailoring and embroidery centre. There, participants observed diverse designing techniques and handwork embroidery, helping them understand recent market trends and refine their own skill development pathways.
- The project also extended protection assistance in 8 individual cases, addressing issues such as documentation, de-addiction, and WASH.
- In total, 1,200 camp-based refugees and 350 non-camp individuals were supported across areas including education access, sanitation, health awareness, and legal documentation.

Resilience

New Study Released on Climate Resilience and Disaster Preparedness

In May 2025, ADRA India launched a new publication highlighting community-led approaches to disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation. The study brings together real-world strategies, local insights, & evidence-based practices that demonstrate how vulnerable communities are leading change from the ground up.

Drawing from field experience, the report explores:

- Risk and vulnerability assessments in disaster-prone areas
- The leadership of youth, women, and local institutions in resilience building
- Strengthening of early warning systems and response coordination
- Integration of sustainable livelihoods and climate-smart agriculture
- Learnings from the HPDRR platform as a multi-stakeholder coordination model

The publication provides a roadmap for scaling what works, while centring the voices and agency of communities most at risk.

Read the full study: [ADRA Anticipatory Action Report \(PDF\)](#) or scan the QR Code:



Closing thoughts on the HPDRR Project in Himachal Pradesh

The Himachal Pradesh Disaster Risk Reduction (HPDRR) Project, which began in January 2024 with the backing of Aktion Deutschland Hilft eV and ADRA Germany, officially wrapped up in June 2025. Over the course of 18 months, the project focused on Disaster Preparedness and Early Recovery and quietly integrated resilience into the communities of three districts: Shimla, Solan, and Kullu by tackling the consequences of disasters as well as their underlying vulnerabilities. From schools facing water shortages and damaged sanitation facilities to diminished livelihoods and fragile supply chains, HPDRR collaborated with communities to restore, rethink, and strengthen.



In Najan village, where girls previously missed school due to unsafe washrooms, nine renovated toilets now feature tiled floors, proper ventilation, running water, and restored dignity. In Dhamdar, eight women who once solely depended on subsistence farming are now growing mushrooms in their courtyards, utilising agricultural waste as materials and community kitchens as incubation areas. And in Kharna, four vermicomposting pits established by 16 families are generating not only organic fertiliser but also a steady source of income and a new sense of pride.

Impacting over 30,000 individuals, HPDRR invested in future initiatives through Disaster Management Centres, school safety programs, women empowerment, livelihood support, capacity-building efforts, awareness generation, and education on anticipating heatwaves, especially relevant as Kullu experienced its highest June temperatures in decades. More than 600 schoolchildren learned to identify signs of heatstroke and dehydration through hands-on workshops, facilitated not by outside experts, but by the same teachers who were trained months before as part of the project.

HPDRR faced its share of challenges. Engaging remote communities across steep and scattered landscapes required creativity: decentralised meetings, coordination of local transport, and adaptable planning. Yet perhaps the most significant takeaway was that community-driven initiatives, when trusted and supported, rise above any disruptions.

The conclusion of the project was marked by ongoing activity. School management committees now independently maintain WASH facilities. Self-help groups have combined their savings to duplicate the vermicomposting units. Additionally, community leaders are seeking to align with government programs to maintain DRR training and awareness initiatives.

The mountains continue to be at risk. However, as a result of HPDRR, their inhabitants are now more resilient. In communities where disaster once brought isolation, it now also encourages organisation, adaptation, and collective efforts.





*Justice.
Compassion
Love*

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