

SUSTAINING HOPE

ADRA India's Newsletter

January- March 2026



INSIDE THE ISSUE

Introduction

Livelihood and Economic
Empowerment

Environment and
Sustainable Land Use

Health

Photo: BRIDGE UP | Uttar Pradesh

Introduction

Over the first quarter, ADRA India and its community partners strengthened healthcare, livelihoods, and local systems across multiple states, while continuing a growing shift toward community ownership and participation.

ADRA India celebrated women across its programmes through special Women's Day initiatives, reinforcing the organisation's commitment to strengthening women's agency, participation, and leadership within communities.



LIVELIHOODS & ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

From Pilot Plots to Mushroom Enterprises | SCORE | Assam

In the tea garden communities of Dibrugarh and Tinsukia, eight women and young people supported by ADRA India's SCORE project are now running home-based mushroom cultivation units. Two among them have scaled their operations to 500 grow bags per cycle, earning around ₹10,000 from a single harvest. Six others averaged ₹4,000 each, with a 45-day production cycle that keeps income regular and investment risk low.

What sets this apart is who is driving it. Two women have already moved into value addition: drying mushrooms, making pickles, without prompting. Sales that began at village shops are now reaching weekly bazaars, with town markets next.



Apurba's Return

Apurba (right) was one of the first young men in his village to train in mushroom cultivation. He stepped away after family pressures and an unsuccessful search for work in Bengaluru. When ADRA India's SCORE team crossed paths with him again during a market assessment, he rejoined the next training and became its backbone, preparing the site and welcoming others.

Today, Apurba cultivates around 500 bags with a peer, has sold close to 60 so far, and earned roughly ₹10,000. He now mentors other growers and is the official link between his community and the local Krishi Vigyan Kendra.

Community Governance Shifts

Beyond enterprise, Community Action Groups (CAGs) in Oakland and Motapung participated in Gram Panchayat Development Plan processes for the first time, submitting formal memoranda on irrigation, energy, and sanitation. Communities are approaching the Panchayat as rights-holders, not recipients.

₹10,000

earned by top producers
in a single cycle

2

first-ever GDP
participation by CAGs

8

home-based mushroom
units now operating

Dairy Farming, Financial Literacy & Gender Conversations | PRECISE | Assam



Across 13 villages in Baksa district, the PRECISE project spent the first quarter of 2026 building the technical and social foundations for dairy-based livelihoods. Seventy-two farming households received maize and oat seeds and cultivated 80 bighas of green fodder through two newly established community gardens.

Sixty farmers spent three days at Assam Agriculture University observing scientific dairy management — watching a 100-litre operation that had evolved into a unit producing milk, paneer, and curd. Additional learning visits to Bongaigaon and Nepal broadened the frame further.

“

This is the first time I am doing fodder farming with support from ADRA. I want to sell some to recover my investment and use the rest for my cows.

- Kamal Narzary, Kumguri village

”

On financial empowerment, 151 participants — 117 women and 34 men — attended sessions on government schemes including PMJJBY and digital banking. Many encountered entitlements they were not previously aware of.

Gender equality sessions ran across six villages, reaching 410 participants. A peer support network of 42 female dairy farmers now provides a space for sharing challenges. Resistance to some of these conversations persists in parts of the community, alongside disruptions from early monsoon weather.

72

farming households
cultivating fodder

151

participants in financial
literacy training

Poultry, Goats, and Community | RISE | Tamil Nadu



In Tiruvallur district's Anna Nagar area, a backyard poultry initiative is running ahead of its income targets despite starting with half the intended number of households. Together, they have generated ₹52,014 in revenue — ₹27,162 from 83 chickens sold and ₹24,852 from 2,071 eggs.

Both figures exceed the original targets. Families are reinvesting earnings into medical care, children's schooling, and livestock expansion.

₹ 52,014

total revenue from
poultry in Anna Nagar

₹ 27,162

chicken sales revenue
(vs ₹20,000 target)

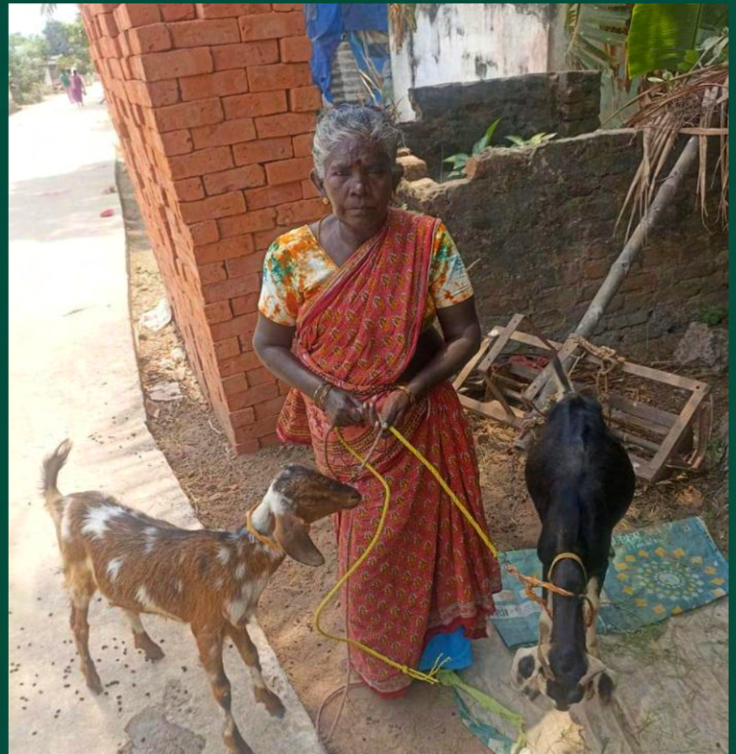
₹ 10,000

expected sale value of
one goat

Nesamani's Story

Nesamani has lived in Guruvoyal village in Tiruvallur for three decades. When her husband left 29 years ago, she raised her son alone through daily labor — flower-picking, whatever was available. Even after her son's marriage, support did not come. She grew increasingly isolated, rarely speaking to neighbors, staying away from community gatherings. When ADRA's team began holding village meetings in 2023, Nesamani stayed home. The team kept visiting. Slowly, she started watching from a distance, then attending.

After goat-rearing training, Nesamani received three goats through ADRA's livelihood initiative. One is expected to sell for ₹10,000 — financial security she has not known in years. She has also rejoined her community, attending meetings regularly and taking part in village activities. She plans to expand her herd.



ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABLE LAND USE

ECOL | Tamil Nadu

In its first months, the ECOL 2026 project has secured 210 acres of farmland across four blocks in Ramanathapuram — Bogalur, Thirupullani, Ramanathapuram, and Mandapam — partnering with 69 farmers committed to agroforestry and environmental restoration.

Among them is Kajini Mohammad from Chittarkottai. After completing a diploma in mechanics and working overseas, Kajini chose to come home and farm. As an active Green Fellow, he distributes saplings to neighboring villages and panchayats, plants trees along roadsides, and develops small community forests.



Challenges are real: frequent changes in panchayat officials mean relationships have to be rebuilt repeatedly. Joint land ownership creates complex approval processes. In some areas, male migration and restrictions on women's public work complicate who can commit to long-term land maintenance. Uneven terrain demands preparation before planting can begin.

The project is currently collecting information on government schemes for solar plantation, drip irrigation, and fencing, and is planning soil testing camps across all four blocks, with around 20 samples per location.



Community Initiative for Road Development | RISE | Tamil Nadu



Built through community action, this road is already changing daily life in Anna Nagar

Anna Nagar village went without a proper road for 90 years. During monsoons, the paths became impassable. Visitors and vehicles avoided the area altogether.

This quarter, that changed. Thanks to ADRA's work with the community, the village united. From Joint Action Committee members, youth, women, and schoolchildren all came together to attend Gram Sabha meetings, collect signatures, submit petitions, and push through to the concerned office. After delays, the road was finally built.

The difference is immediate. Children walk to school without difficulty. Elderly residents move through the village. Vehicles come through.

Other milestones from the quarter: 50 children from Anna Nagar visited the Nandanam Book Fair, and 40 women in Goudiepuram gathered for International Women's Day, engaging with the theme "Give to Gain."

HEALTH

Vaccine-Hesitant Families Reached | BRIDGE UP | Uttar Pradesh

Between January and March 2026, ADRA's field teams worked alongside frontline health workers across 15 districts of Uttar Pradesh to connect children previously outside the immunization system to routine vaccination services. By the end of the quarter, 8,006 of 8,484 identified vaccine-hesitant families — and 3,560 of 4,057 zero-dose children — were connected to vaccination services.

Of these, 232 zero-dose children and 423 vaccine-hesitant children received immunizations directly through project-led activities, supported by a network of 1,506 community influencers whose standing in their communities often determines whether a hesitant family says yes or no.

Much of the momentum built around the national Tika Utsav (Immunization Festival) in December 2025 and January 2026. ADRA aligned intensive mobilization with these dates, using street plays, night chaupals, rallies, and engagement with urban local body members. Before and after, teams sensitized frontline workers and reviewed performance data to identify the hardest-to-reach pockets.

A Crowded Frontline

ASHA workers were stretched across parallel government drives during the quarter — ABHA ID registration, TB campaigns — alongside their routine responsibilities. ADRA used district and block-level review forums to keep routine immunization communication front and center.

Phase Two is now underway. New field staff are being onboarded, a fresh headcount survey is in progress, and ASHA areas are being finalized with updated targets. Entry-level activities and social mapping will follow across 1,944 ASHA areas.



Closing Health Gaps in Mizoram | IMEP-III | Mizoram



This quarter marked the first real test of IMEP-III's community-led malaria response across 461 high-burden villages in Mizoram. Volunteers conducted more than 5,200 rapid diagnostic tests between January and March. Of the 153 positive cases identified, every single one completed treatment follow-up.

“

The patient had already stopped the tablets. He said he felt fine. I went back three times before he agreed to finish the course.

- Community health volunteer, Siaha district

”

What the Numbers Don't Show

Field teams adapted constantly. When rapid diagnostic test kits ran low in some clusters, teams triaged by prioritizing suspected cases with a fever history and recent forest exposure. When roads became impassable, supervisors rerouted. When a volunteer dropped out, a neighbor stepped in; all of this is what made the work possible.

Public health announcements reached up to 91% of target villages in February. In March, school awareness sessions ran across 151 schools, realising children carry health messages home in ways that adult-focused campaigns sometimes do not.

Community Action Groups

Every targeted village now has a Community Action Group. In practice, these are often a small group of people who show up to a meeting after a long day of farming and have decided that malaria is their community's problem to own. They promote bed net use, encourage early testing, and spread the word when a positive case is found. The model works not because an outsider arrives with authority, but because a neighbor arrives with information.

5200+

rapid diagnostic tests
conducted in Q1

153

positive cases with completed
treatment follow-up

151

schools covered in March
awareness sessions



ADRA India

45, Kusum Marg, Block H, DLF Phase 1, Sector 26,
Gurugram 122002, India

 ADRA India

 adra.india

 ADRAINDIA1

 www.adraindia.org

