Musahar community is caught in the vicious cycle of poverty and debt bondage

Newsletter: December 2018

Dear Friend

Namaste!

As 2018 draws to an end...I am immensely grateful to YOU for YOUR support to IDRF that has enabled us to change the lives of thousands, who were in desperate need of help. Here's a glimpse at how YOUR support to IDRF has helped change lives of underprivileged people and given them a life of dignity....

In this Newsletter...

- **Awards and Honors for IDRF:** IDRF Board Member Dr. G.R. Verma awarded *Lifetime Achievement Award* and IDRF’s Founder & President awarded *Distinguished Community and Humanitarian Service Award*
- Empowerment and livelihood for the most backward community
- Women’s participation in village governance- Inform! Perform! Transform!
Empowerment and Livelihood for Musahar Community in Eastern Uttar Pradesh

With YOUR generosity and support, this project will economically and socially empower: 9,187 people in 20 villages!

Musahars work as manual labor in agricultural fields of landlords and their wages are very low to fulfill their domestic needs. With IDRF’s support and guidance, partner-NGO Manav Seva Sansthan is working in 20 villages of Kushinagar district to provide momentum to the community's needs in terms of their entitlements, health, education, and livelihood over a three year period (2018-20).

From July – Sept 2018, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) were formed and 57 representatives trained to present development issues in front of the government officials in a way so that the problems can be resolved. One major issue that needs urgent action is to maximize the attendance of children in schools and enrolling the drop outs at the bridge education centers. Health and Sanitation has been another focus with emphasis on vaccination for Japanese Encephalitis.

Needy families are being trained for livelihood and income generation activities, requiring low cost set up, cheap raw material and demand in local markets. A community skill center has been established, to train youth in bicycle repairing, masonry, carpentry, incense-sticks and paper-making, etc.
Free health camps were organized at 3 villages in order to conduct general checkups of the villagers and distribute preventive medicines to stop the spread of diseases after the rainy season ends.

**Empowerment of Rural Women and Marginal Farmers by Promoting Participation in Local Governance in Haryana**

IDRF is supporting partner-NGO Arpana with ADIG (Association for Democratic and Inclusive Govt.) in a three year project (Apr 2017- Mar 2020) working in 20 Gram Panchayats on: widening the scope of women’s contribution towards integrated development by forming committees (of IDRF-supported Self Help Groups (SHG) members) to support formal Panchayat committees. This visionary support of IDRF is resulting in well-informed and confident women members that are committed to resolving village problems related to education, health and infrastructure, etc.

**Success Story:**

**SHG Women Combating Water-borne Diseases!**

SHG representatives conducted "Health Day" in June 2018, attended by 11,250 villagers in 82 villages. This action plan mobilized all SHGs to take petitions to 96 Panchayats to take up preventive measures against mosquito breeding and protection against Malaria, Dengue and Chikungunya. Community action for prevention of these water borne diseases was planned in each village and implemented over 3 months (July-September) when these diseases often grow into minor epidemics.

RESULT: Incidence of the water-borne diseases was much lower than 2017!

**Fogging (anti-malarial sprays) done by Gram Panchayats in their villages**

Thank you once again....for your generosity and support to IDRF. Our mission to *put power and not charity in the hands of those in need* continues ONLY because of YOUR compassion and commitment!
Enjoy the Holiday Season with your family and friends!

Warm wishes,
Dr. Vinod Prakash
President and Founder, IDRF