



## India Development and Relief Fund NEWSLETTER-September 2022

*Putting power not charity in the hands of those in need*

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Dear friends,

Inflation, war and climate change are having a disproportionate effect on the poorest in our community. This is especially true in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, where many people work in the informal sector and rely on earnings from daily work. The request for assistance from our NGO partners has increased significantly and IDRF is trying to help even more needy people with the support of our donors.

### **In this newsletter:**

- Donor helps set up an aquatherapy pool
- Help to the displaced communities from across the border
- COVID vaccinations for vulnerable communities
- Progress of Climate Initiative
- Rehabilitating flood victims

### **An Aquatherapy Pool for Children with Special Needs, Maharashtra**

IDRF and a generous donor, **Dr. Rajani Patwari (Chicago, USA)** helped set up a state-of-the-art swimming pool to benefit children with special needs. The first of its kind aquatherapy center set up by **Savitribai Phule Mahila Ekatma Samaj Mandal** in Aurangabad, is equipped with a hydraulic lift for wheelchairs, an aqua gym, and a spine massager. About 56 children with development disabilities are benefitting from the therapy sessions.

## Facilitating Socio-Economic and Cultural Assimilation of Marginalized Displaced Communities, Rajasthan



IDRF's partner **Universal Just Action Society (UJAS)** works to provide humanitarian assistance to displaced migrants from Pakistan and helps them assimilate into the local mainstream society. IDRF is helping these marginalized communities in Jaisalmer by supporting **22 Self-Help Groups** and providing them with livelihood support. In August:

20 women attended **Embroidery Training**

22 men and women attended **Cow Management Training**

40 children (mainly girls) provided access to low-cost formal **education** at a local school

See how the women are benefitting...

[CLICK to see](#) the designer items made by **DHARMI**

*"I have faced a lot of hardships raising my 5 children, but due to the efforts of UJAS and IDRF, I have learned a lot through embroidery training to earn a livelihood",*

says **UTMI DEVI**, 35, of Bheel Basti, who came to India 17 years ago with her husband and children



## Ensuring Access to COVID-19 Vaccination to the Vulnerable and Marginalized Communities, Odisha

Most people in disadvantaged communities lack awareness, devices, and an internet connection to register for and access COVID vaccines. IDRF is helping partner **Youth for Social Development** in bridging the gap between vaccine eagerness and hesitancy among communities in the Ganjam district. Our partner engaged with local authorities to jointly set up outreach centers in remote areas to provide vaccines.

<b>From 2021 to 2022:</b>
<b>90,000</b> people provided <b>COVID vaccination knowledge</b> in 70 villages
<b>81,600</b> (85%) opted for <b>1st and 2nd doses</b> of vaccination
<b>8,700</b> most vulnerable were identified and provided <b>transportation support</b> for vaccination

***The way forward: IDRF is helping people get booster doses and mitigating COVID vaccination hesitancy in children (6-14 years).***



### **IDRF's Climate Initiative, Chattisgarh**

IDRF is funding green projects in several states of India aimed at reducing carbon dioxide in the environment. We are working on grassroots projects with the help of various partners:

In August, we partnered with Samerth Trust and provided:
<b>10,000 plants</b> and <b>organic manure</b> in the Kabirdham district.
<b>5 biogas units</b> in the Bemetara district



**IDRF helped Keshava Seva Samiti with the building and repair of 65 houses destroyed in floods in July in Mancherial District, Telangana**



It is entirely with your kindness and generosity that we can provide a life of dignity for thousands. Thank you very much for your continued support in helping the underserved.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Vinod Prakash  
Founder and President (*pro bono*), IDRF

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