

# India Development and Relief Fund

## Annual Report 2020

*Empowering people in  
India, Nepal and Sri Lanka*



India Development and Relief Fund  
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## ***IDRF's Mission***

***Breaking the cycle of poverty in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka by  
empowering marginalized people through skills, services and  
infrastructure grounded in sustainable development***

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# President's Message



Dear IDRF friends,

Namaste! I am extremely thankful to you for your continued support of IDRF especially during these challenging times of COVID-19. Your kindness and compassion helped us raise \$2.63 million and helped provide a life of dignity to tens of thousands of people struggling in India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

This report profiles some of IDRF's key achievements and success stories made possible in 2020 by your support and trust in IDRF's commitment to using your donations most efficiently and effectively. We maintain the highest compliance standards and exercise due diligence in selecting and working with local organizations with established track records. This report talks about IDRF's evaluation and monitoring process of making grants to NGOs (page 4). As always we have maintained extremely low overheads of 5% and 95% of the funds raised were sent to the beneficiary NGOs.

In 2020, when the USA faced a heart-wrenching situation due to the COVID-19 outbreak, IDRF joined hands with the Indian-American community and local organizations to provide relief to the struggling families in the Washington DC metro area (page 13). During times of humanitarian crises, IDRF has always extended a helping hand to the needy in the United States as well. During the spike in coronavirus cases in the second wave in India, IDRF is providing relief through groceries, oxygen concentrators, ventilators, other medical supplies, managing vaccination centers, and transporting people living in far-flung areas to the vaccination centers.

During these challenging times, when the poor need your help more than ever, I hope you will continue your valuable support to IDRF. Your help will enable us to continue the ongoing programs and start new projects while providing relief to those hit hardest by the pandemic.

Thank you and stay safe and well!

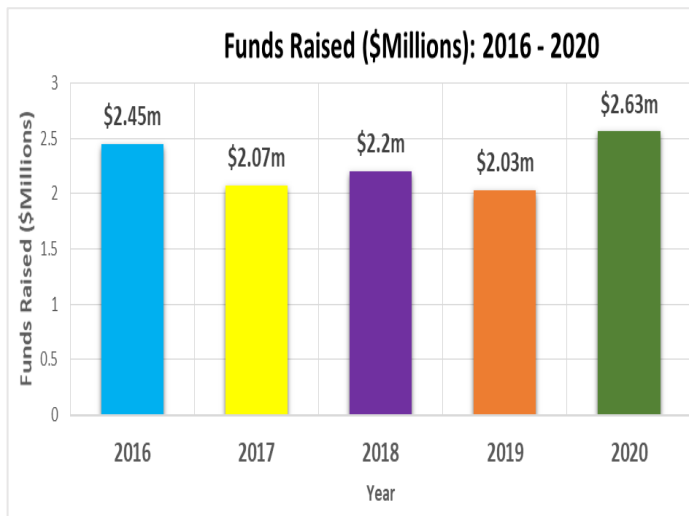
Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vinod Prakash".

Dr. Vinod Prakash

# Fundraising and Grant Distribution

You helped us raise \$2.63 million in 2020

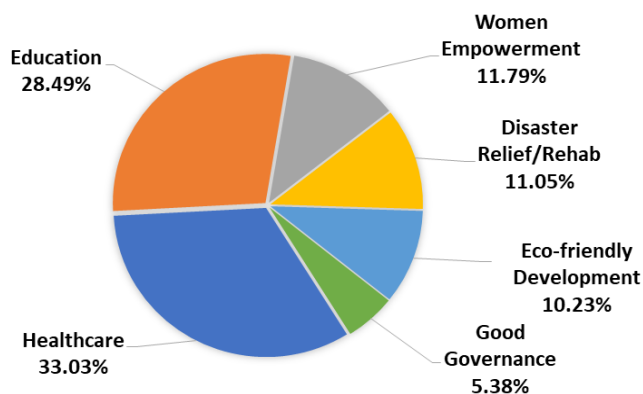


## Our Program Sites



**\$1.76 million Disbursed in Grants**

### DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS BY FOCUS AREAS



**Very low overheads of only 5.1%**

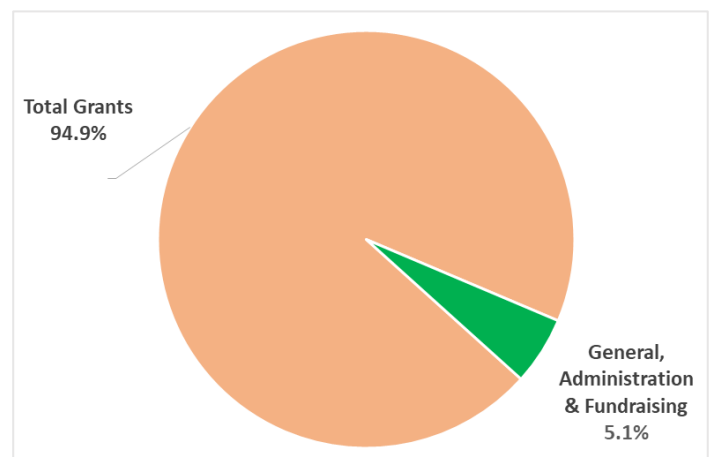
*We know you expect IDRF to use your funds wisely. At IDRF, we are committed to fulfilling your trust by maximizing the funds disbursed for our programs!*



Development Programs



Disaster Relief/Rehab Programs









[Financial statements and tax returns](#)

Auditors: Desai & Shah, PC, CPAs, Maryland



# NGO Partners by Focus Area and Location

Total NGOs = 57

 <b>Health</b>		\$562,775	 <b>Education</b>		\$485,435
Partner NGO	Project Location		Partner NGO	Project Location	
Sree Kasturibayi Mahila Samajam	Andhra Pradesh		Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram	Across Tribal India	
Vivekananda Rock Memorial & Vivekananda Kendra	Arunachal & Assam		Computer Shiksha	Across India	
Rotary Club of Rajkot Midtown Charitable Trust	Gujarat		Jayarama Educational Society	Andhra Pradesh	
Shri Agasimata Charitable Trust	Gujarat		The Circle of Goodwill	Andhra Pradesh	
Indian Association of Muscular Dystrophy	Himachal Pradesh		Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana	Karnataka	
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Vaidyakiya Pratishthan	Maharashtra		Aai Janhit Bahu-uddeshiya Sevabhavi Sansthan	Maharashtra	
Sri Sathya Sai Trust	Odisha		Mahamanav Baba Amte Bahuuddeshiya Samajik Vikas Seva Sanstha	Maharashtra	
Saraswati Jain Sewa Samiti	Rajasthan		Sulabh Trust for Special Education and Research	Maharashtra	
Sahaj Sewa Sansthan	Telangana		Savitribai Phule Mahila Samaj Mandal	Maharashtra	
Lions Club of Hyderabad-Meerpet Charitable Trust	Telangana		Swami Vivekanand Education Pratishthan	Maharashtra	
Sri Ram Grameen Kshetra Vikas Samit	Uttar Pradesh		Swa-Roopwardhinee	Maharashtra	
Ramakrishna Mission Sevashrama	Uttarakhand		Rayat Shikshan Sansthan	Maharashtra	
Yogoda Satsang Society	Tamil Nadu & West Bengal				
			Pardada Pradadi Education Society	Uttar Pradesh	
			Bodh Shiksha Samiti	Rajasthan	
			S M Sehgal Foundation	Rajasthan	
			Swami Keshwanand Smriti Charitable Trust	Rajasthan	
			Vimukti Shikshan Sanstha	Rajasthan	
			Nayantara Memorial Charitable trust	Rajasthan & W.Bengal	
			Upkar Foundation	USA	
			Sri Ram Gram Vikas Samiti	Uttar Pradesh	
			Vikahar Paribar Bikash Kendra	West Bengal	
 <b>Women's Empowerment</b>		\$200,880	 <b>Disaster Relief/Rehab</b>		\$188,317
Partner NGO	Project Location		Partner NGO	Project Location	
Shiksha Bharti	Across Tribal India		Gram Vikas Parishad	Bihar	
Sewa Bharti, Madhyabharat	Madhya Pradesh		Samerth Charitable Trust	Gujarat	
Lila Poonawalla Foundation	Maharashtra		Jnana Prabodhini	Maharashtra	
Vatsalya Trust Mumbai	Maharashtra				
Sri Lanka Centre for Development Facilitation	SRI LANKA		Public Health Concern Trust	NEPAL	
			Sri Sathya Sai Trust	Odisha	
			Voluntary Agency for Social Action	Odisha	
			Youth Social Development	Odisha	
			Center for Advocacy and Research	Rajasthan	
			American Diversity Group	USA	
			Association of United Hindu and Jain Temples	USA	
			Ramakrishna Mission Sevashram	Uttarakhand	
			Manav Seva Sansthan 'SEVA'	Uttar Pradesh & Kerala	
			Economic Rural Development Society	West Bengal	
 <b>Good Governance</b>		\$91,700			
Partner NGO	Project Location				
Action for India	All across India				
Nimar Abhyudaya Rural Management and Development Association	Madhya Pradesh				
Janaagraha Center for Citizenship & Democracy	Odisha				
Manav Seva Sansthan 'SEVA'	Uttar Pradesh				
 <b>Ecofriendly Development</b>		\$174,268			
Partner NGO	Project Location				
Samerth Charitable Trust	Chattisgarh & Gujarat				
Magan Sangrahalaya Samiti	Maharashtra				
Swami Vivekananda Rural Development Society	Tamil Nadu				

## In 2020

Total NGO Partners	57
India	52
USA	3
Nepal	1
Sri Lanka	1

## Our NGO Partners over the last 5-years

Year	Total NGOs	Indian states	Nepal	Sri Lanka	USA
2019	46	16	1	1	1
2018	44	18	1	1	1
2017	48	17	1	1	1
2016	41	15	1	1	1
2015	41	14	1	-	1

# Mission and Strategy in Action-I

In 1988, a World Bank retiree Dr. Vinod Prakash and his wife Sarla, set up IDRF with the mission to break the cycle of poverty in India. Since then the evaluation and monitoring process ensures that grants are awarded to NGOs that demonstrate successful track records, maintain financial accountability, serve people regardless of religion or caste, and are approved to receive funds from overseas under the Govt. of India Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). Grants are disbursed after due diligence to NGOs in India, and more recently in Nepal and Sri Lanka that implement grassroots programs for the underserved.

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***IDRF maintains the highest compliance standards and one of the lowest overheads (administration & fundraising) in the industry of only about 5%.***

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IDRF offers a **platform** to you to fulfil your dream of ‘Giving back’. We provide **“Donor Advised and Funded”** projects for causes dear to your heart or in the memory of a loved one. You can make a charitable contribution to IDRF and receive an immediate tax-deduction and then recommend disbursement of the funds to your favorite causes or charities over time.

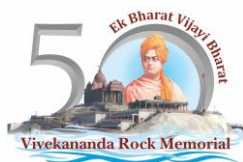
Funds are disbursed on a project basis for the most effective and efficient use. Most projects are co-financed by the NGOs and beneficiaries, with the ultimate goal of becoming self-sustaining. We remain in direct contact with the NGOs and receive periodic reports and financial utilization of the funds. Our Board members, staff, donors, and volunteers are encouraged to visit the sites of the project.

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***IDRF has received top-most accreditations and recognition from the industry!***

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[Guidestar.org](https://www.guidestar.org) has awarded IDRF the Platinum Seal, [Charity Navigator USA](https://www.charitynavigator.org) has conferred 4 out of 4-stars for eight consecutive years for demonstrating strong financial health and a commitment to accountability and transparency. Only 6% of public charities have been able to retain 4-star ratings for eight consecutive years! [Greatnonprofits.org](https://www.greatnonprofits.org) considers IDRF a top-rated charity with 5-star ratings based on numerous independent reviews.



## Our Journey with Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari

IDRF's partnership with Vivekananda Kendra-a pan-India organization spreading Swami Vivekananda's message of "service to humanity, is service to God" started in the early 1990s. IDRF supported the renovation of the Vivekananda Rock Memorial, Kanyakumari, where he is believed to have attained enlightenment. IDRF started supporting various *Arun Jyoti* activities aimed at the development of the marginalized communities in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.



Primary health services were provided to the people in remote villages of the Himalayas along the Indo-Myanmar border. The medical teams were operating on foot in rough terrain and IDRF provided them a *medical van* in 1999. Since then three more medical vans have been provided that have benefitted more than 50,000 people from 40 villages in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

IDRF established *Rural Area Medical Aid (RAMA)*, whereby, member doctors in the USA, donate \$1,000 each/year to cover the operating costs of the medical vans. Several members have volunteered in the *mobile medical camps* in Assam. The experience of these doctors inspired us to construct a fixed-location *OPD-pathology laboratory* in 2019 and started the construction of an *Operation Theater* in Tinsukia, Assam.



In 2006-2007, IDRF extended its support to Vivekananda International Foundation in New Delhi, by providing a *state-of-the-art library*, *seminar hall*, and *guest rooms*. In 2009, IDRF supported the construction of a *multi-purpose building* in Guwahati.

In 2018, a 3-year "*Project Poshan*" was started to provide healthy meals and supplements to 600 malnourished children in

Arunachal Pradesh. In 2020, "*Mission Shakti*" -a 2-year project was started to eradicate anemia among 1,000 young women in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. As we move forward in our journey with Vivekananda Kendra, a senior dental surgeon has joined the medical team and *dental care* is also now offered through the OPD at Tinsukia. [Read more](#)



## 1. Education and Skill Development

**“Shikshak Pahal”- a rural community-led education program during the COVID-19 pandemic, Rajasthan**

**-Bodh Shiksha Samiti**



IDRF and Bodh Shiksha Samiti provide free child-centered education to underserved children. During the pandemic, an in-person homeschooling program was initiated and study kits were provided every two weeks in small groups in the areas around Jaipur.

[Read more](#)

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***30 “shiksha-ghars” (study groups) with 1,000 students got quality education with the help of teachers, volunteers and alumni.***

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**Online learning activities for students of Integrated Child Development Centers, Maharashtra**

**-Swa-Roopwardhinee**

IDRF supports Swa-Roopwardhinee provide after-school educational and sports activities to underprivileged children at 17 Integrated Child Development Centers in Pune. [Read more](#)

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***2,000 children engaged in study sessions, storytelling, elocution, art competitions, and yoga, etc. through WhatsApp during the lockdown.***

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## 2. Healthcare

### Construction of a hospital for poor patients, Telangana

-Sahaj Seva Samsthan

IDRF is helping Sahaj Seva Samsthan construct a small hospital in Hyderabad for offering quality medical services. The construction started in 2020 and by May 2021 it will be ready to start services for the patients. [Read more](#)

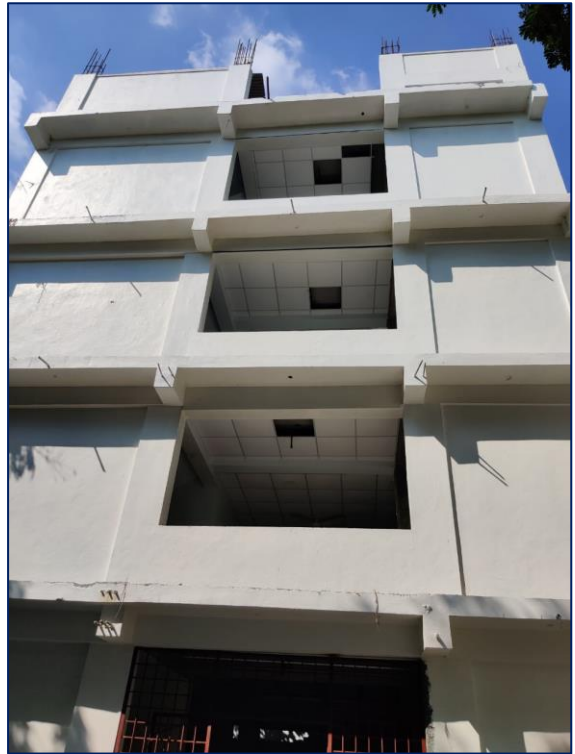
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The **5-bed hospital** will offer pathology lab and ancillary services at subsidized rates to poor patients

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Operational expenses for running rehabilitation centers for patients with muscular dystrophy, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, and Delhi

-Indian Association of Muscular Dystrophy



IDRF helps by providing recurring expenses to run the rehabilitation centers that treat poor patients with muscular dystrophy free of cost. [Read more](#)

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**3** rehabilitation centers provide on-site diagnostic facilities, treatments and transportation to **100** patients per day.

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### 3. Women Empowerment

*“We are building strong bonds of sisterhood, confidence and self-worth. Providing better nutrition and education for our children and winning the respect and admiration of our families and communities”. -Sunita from Chandipur village.*



**Empowering rural women through self-employment and participation in local governance, Haryana**

**-Arpana Research and Charities Trust**

IDRF in partnership with Arpana and Association for Democratic and Inclusive Governance is empowering women by training and creating financial security through Self-Help Groups by investing in income-generating activities. Women are also actively involved in village development issues like poverty alleviation, community health, and social justice. [Read more](#)

**Over a 3-year project (2017-20) - 51 Self-Help Groups and 952 members added**

***When COVID-19 hit: SHG women stepped-up!***

*500 women from 100 villages liaised between villagers and government in fight against the coronavirus. They also provided food to migrant workers and their families.*

**Improving livelihood activities in women headed households, Sri Lanka**

**-Sri Lanka Centre for Development Facilitation**

IDRF helps provide opportunities for women in low-income families in Kandy to start their ventures or strengthen the existing ones through Revolving Micro-loans. [Read more](#)

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***78 women and families were trained and provided start-up capital for income-generating activities***

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### 4. Eco-friendly Developments

#### Biogas plant at IDRF-tribal girls' hostel, Uttar Pradesh

**-Shiksha Bharati**

IDRF has supported the installation of a two-unit biogas plant on the 20-acres education campus in Hapur. The plant runs on human and animal waste and meets the fuel needs in the kitchen at the hostel with 66 girls.



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*Clean energy from the biogas plant replaces 57 LPG cylinders per year*

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#### Desilting ponds to collect water through rainwater harvesting, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat

**-Swami Vivekananda Rural Development Society and Samerth Charitable Trust**

IDRF supports the desilting of ponds to provide water for household use in villages with water shortages. Ponds choked with silt and weed are dug up and any obstructions to water flow are removed and rainwater starts collecting in them. [Read more](#)



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*Safe water for 40,850 villagers from 7 ponds in Tamil Nadu  
and 2,000 villagers from 2 ponds in Gujarat*

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## 5. Good Governance

**Strengthening Municipal Reforms for implementing improved quality of public services, Odisha**

**-Janaagraha Center for Citizenship & Democracy**

IDRF has partnered with Janaagraha, the Odisha government, and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for 3 years to strengthen cities by improving municipal finances, staffing/capacities, and citizen engagement. The project is also involved in the state's JAGA Mission for denotification of over 2,000+ slums into regular city neighborhoods through infrastructure and service development.

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*Property tax reforms implemented in Bhubaneshwar*

*Groundwork done to reform Odisha's property tax valuation system*

*Completion of a new Odisha Municipal Accounting Manual*

*581 slums identified to be transformed into Adarsh colonies- livable habitats*

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**Empowerment and Livelihood for the downtrodden-Musahar community, Uttar Pradesh**

**-Manav Seva Sansthan "SEVA"**

IDRF is helping bring about community empowerment to increase economic opportunities and the social reintegration of **9,187 beneficiaries from 20 villages** into the local communities (2018-2021).

Community meetings with government officials were held to understand benefits & schemes launched for the marginalized during the pandemic



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*Support for income generation activities:*

***42** farmers trained for On-farm livelihood*

***107** youth and **125** women for Non-farm vocational skill-development programs*

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## 6. Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation

### COVID-19 relief in India



**6,500 Relief kits**  
(groceries & hygiene items)  
to migrant workers and  
families in 8 states

IDRF sent more than \$127,000 in 2020 to provide relief to the needy during the pandemic. Medicines, PPEs, and food were provided to medical personnel and patients. Thousands of

migrant workers were provided snacks, meals, water bottles, face masks, and sanitizers at the checkpoints while traveling back home. [Read more](#)

**Partners and states:** Gram Vikas Parishad (Bihar), Samerth Charitable Trust (Gujarat), Jnana Prabodhini (Maharashtra), Youth for Social Development and Sathya Sai Trust (Odisha), Center for Advocacy and Research (Rajasthan), Manav Seva Sansthan “SEVA” (Uttar Pradesh), Ramakrishna Mission (Uttarakhand) and Economic Rural Development Society (West Bengal).

### COVID-19 relief in Nepal

IDRF sent \$10,000 in grants to the Kathmandu Model Hospital to provide financial help for hospital staff (that was laid-off or had work hours reduced), equipment for in-patient care, and emergency supplies for coronavirus control and containment. [Read more](#)



### Naina and Dileep Thatte (Board Member) visit Jnana Prabodhini and Lila Poonawalla Foundation, Maharashtra



(L to R) Dileep, Dr. Girish Bapat, Subhash Deshpande and Naina

IDRF supports Jnana Prabodhini in empowering tribal women through self-help groups and micro-loans to start up small enterprises to supplement their household incomes. The Thattes visited Jnana Prabodhini and were given a tour of the facility.

*“Jnana Prabodhini’s goals are in line with those of IDRF and they seem to be conscious of their commitment to the development of marginalized people through empowerment.”- Dileep*

They also visited Lila Poonawalla Foundation that IDRF supports by providing scholarships for higher education to academically meritorious but financially weak women.

*“Lila Poonawalla Foundation is doing a great work for the girls from poor families in India. They are working towards building a fully sustainable model with professional managers on Board”.-Dileep*

### Anita and Ashish Kumar (Donors) visit SKKS Saraswati Vidya Mandir, Uttar Pradesh

The Kumars visited the school that IDRF is supporting to provide affordable and quality education to 250 children from poor rural families by expanding the building and adding modern facilities.



*“We were very impressed to see the school! We got the impression that students are very happy and enjoying the learning environment.”-Anita*



## Special Events & Awards



### COVID-19 relief program in the USA

During the pandemic in the United States, IDRF partnered with local organizations and provided \$67,155 and groceries in kind worth around \$200,000 to help those in distress. IDRF joined hands with the Indian-American organizations, local communities, and 20 other organizations like Montgomery County (MD) government, Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery College, Meals on Wheels, food banks, and diverse religious

organizations, etc. in the Washington DC Metro area to provide food to the families hit hardest. [Read more](#)

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**36 Grab & Go events, 15,500 bags and boxes, 525,000 lbs. free groceries**

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Montgomery County Council, Maryland awarded a citation to IDRF on August 15<sup>th</sup>, for its commendable relief work done to serve the multi-cultural and diverse communities in the Washington DC Metro Area during the challenging times.

## Creating livelihood and self-employment opportunities for people with disabilities in rural communities, Haryana

IDRF in partnership with **Arpana Research and Charities Trust** is starting a 2-year project (April 2021-March 2023) in Karnal district for the integrated development, empowerment, and improvement of the quality of life of 300 differently-abled persons. The project will cost about \$12,000 per year to train and provide revolving micro-loans to create self-employment opportunities.

## Providing equipment for an operation theater at a charitable eye hospital, Telangana

IDRF's partner **Lions Club of Hyderabad-Meerpet Charitable** runs an eye hospital in Hyderabad and adding two operation theaters to increase the capacity of cataract surgeries to 10,000 per year. IDRF is helping raise \$18,500 to equip one of the modular operation theaters where the surgeries for the poor patients will be done free of cost.

## Solar capacity building programs for unemployed rural youth, Uttar Pradesh

IDRF in partnership with **SCALE** is expanding its solar capacity building program for unemployed rural youth in NOIDA. 40 participants will be trained in the production and maintenance of solar lights, plants, and pumps, etc. This skill-building will open up more income generation activities. The training program in four batches will cost \$11,000.

## The revival of cultivation and consumption of flaxseeds by small and marginal dryland farmers, Maharashtra

Dryland farmers in the eastern Vidarbha region are under a deep financial crisis. IDRF in partnership with **Magan Sangrahalaya Samiti** is starting a 3-year project to help 1,500 farmers from 150 villages to revert to the farming of flaxseeds. About 2,000 acres of land will yield more than 10,000 quintals of flaxseeds and give a considerable economic boost to farmers. Best farming techniques will be taught to the farmers and enterprises set up to make flaxseeds products. The total cost of this project will be \$28,000.

### Donor Testimonial

*"IDRF provides a wonderful opportunity for Indians living in America to give back to their country. It has projects in multiple sectors and donors can find a cause that speaks to them..."*

-Shubhra Garg, Maryland.

Read more testimonials at: <https://greatnonprofits.org>

# IDRF Team

## Operations Team

Dr. Vinod Prakash	Chief Executive
Ms. Vandana Matravadia	Operations Manager
Dr. Niti Duggal	Project Consultant and Social Media
Ms. Sarla Prakash	Assistant Treasurer

## Support Team

Mr. Rajesh Gooty	Public Relations
Ms. Sudha Jain	Advisor (USA)
Mr. Navin Prasad	Advisor (India)

## Annual Report

Dr. Niti Duggal

## Board of Directors

Dr. Vinod Prakash	President
Mr. Dileep Thatte	Vice President
Dr. Prem Garg	Treasurer
Mr. Mohinder Gulati	Secretary
Dr. G.R. Verma	Member
Mr. Rajeev Jain	Member
Ms. Reena Goyal	Member
Dr. Sasala Challa	Member
Dr. Suresh Gupta	Member

## Auditors

Desai & Shah, PC, CPAs, Maryland, USA

## Accounts

Ms. Banumati Ramkrishnan CPA, LLC

## Young Leaders in Community Service

Rekha Musale, a computer professional and philanthropist based in New Jersey, in collaboration with Marathi Kala Mandal, Greater Washington, conducted online folk-painting workshops to raise funds for IDRF-partner Swa-Roopwardhinee. This organization promotes the integrated development of underprivileged children and women through a variety of educational activities and vocational training programs in Pune.



### IDRF in NEWS ARTICLES:

- [COVID: Indian American Docs, Gurudwara Join Hands For Food Drive](#), The Quint, June 25, 2020
- [Indian-American doctors, gurdwara launch food drive for Covid-19 patients](#), by Kanishka Sarkar, The Hindustan Times, June 25, 2020





# Let's Get Involved!

## Experience the joy of “Giving back”!

### **DONATE TO IDRF and CHANGE LIVES!**

#### **MAIL a CHECK**

Please make youcheck payable to “IDRF”

**India Development and Relief Fund**

**5821 Mossrock Drive**

**North Bethesda, MD 20852**

*(Please include your email address for the receipt)*

#### **ONLINE**

<https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/IDRF>

#### **FACEBOOK**

<https://www.facebook.com/IDRFUSA>

**Double YOUR Donation:** Corporate Employees may double their donation through Charitable Matching Gift Programs at their company (Consult your company's HR department)

**World Bank Group (WBG):** Staff and retirees may double their donation by participating in WBG Community Connections Fundraising Campaign and selecting IDRF

**Combined Federal Campaign (CFC):** US Federal Govt. employees may donate through the CFC

**Amazon Smile:** Support IDRF while you shop—at no extra cost to you! <https://smile.amazon.com> Choose “India Development and Relief Fund” as your charity

### **VOLUNTEER**

RAISE FUNDS

VISIT A PROJECT

SUPPORT A CAUSE

TELL FRIENDS ABOUT US

WRITE A REVIEW OF IDRF

[www.greatnonprofits.org](http://www.greatnonprofits.org)

LIKE US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

### **JOIN OUR MAILING LIST**

[www.idrf.org/join-our-mailing-list/](http://www.idrf.org/join-our-mailing-list/)

### **OTHER WAYS TO DONATE**

Monthly Gift

Stock Transfer

Planned Giving

Charitable Trust

Used Car Donation

### **FOR MORE DETAILS**

[admin@idrf.org](mailto:admin@idrf.org)

## **Donor Spotlight: A unique way to give back!**

*Belambes' set up INR 10 lacs girls' scholarship fund in memory of their late daughter through IDRF's donor-advised program!*

**Abhay and Deepa Belambe** and their two daughters have been IDRF donors for over 20 years. In 2020, they worked with IDRF to set up an INR 10 lacs scholarship fund in memory of their late beloved daughter **Aditi**. They sent funds (through IDRF) to Seva Sahayog in Pune to coordinate the trust setup and grant disbursement. Scholarships totaling INR 2 lacs were awarded to 80 underprivileged girl students in grades 5 - 10 at four schools, including Mr. Belambe's alma mater.

