Making a Difference in lives of the underprivileged in India and Nepal
India Development and Relief Fund, Inc.

Mission

Breaking the cycle of poverty in India and Nepal by empowering marginalized people with skills, services, and infrastructure grounded in self-sustainable development.
Dear Friends,

I would like to thank all of our donors and well-wishers for your continued support, generous contributions, and confidence in IDRF that made 2014 successful. Due to your magnanimity and compassion, thousands of people in India and Nepal were able to improve their lives and live with dignity.

This report profiles some of the key achievements and success stories that have been made possible through your support and IDRF’s strategic vision with emphasis on sustainable development. IDRF made grants across the spectrum from education to women empowerment, rural sanitation, the newer green eco-friendly technologies and combating corruption. Besides these, IDRF provided disaster rehabilitation to the flood victims in Jammu & Kashmir.

Thanks to your trust in IDRF’s mission and your passion for development, we raised $1.26 million in 2014, from more than 600 donors all across USA. This amount includes Corporate Employee Gift Matching - IDRF is registered with more than 60 US Business Corporations including Apple, eBay, Google, HP, Microsoft, etc. By providing donor advisement facility, IDRF has succeeded in fulfilling dreams of Indians in USA to bring development to India. Based on independent reviews, IDRF is considered one of the top-rated nonprofits in the USA at GreatNonprofits.org. Also, because of the exemplary efforts, IDRF has been awarded a 4 out of 4 stars rating, a rare distinction, by Charity Navigator, a premier non-profit rating agency in USA.

Success brings in new challenges as well as opportunities: IDRF is now receiving project proposals from several reputable NGOs in India, much more than it can fund. It is only with your enhanced support that we can fulfill such opportunities. Besides expanding our ongoing programs, we also plan to address new areas of focus, such as human trafficking in 2015.

Hope you enjoy reading our Annual Report!

Thank you,

Dr. Vinod Prakash
Founder and President
YOU HELPED IDRF RAISE $1.26 million in 2014

Funds Raised by IDRF: Annually 2010-2014

2014 Grant Distribution by Focus Area (Total $1,274 K)

Distribution of Functional Expenses

Auditors: Desai & Shah, PC, CPAs, Maryland, USA
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<th>Health</th>
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In 2014 IDRF had 44 programs in 16 Indian states, & 1 each in Nepal and in USA
IDRF fulfills the dream of an NRI: to have a school in his native village.

The school at Nagauri, Meerut, UP, faced tremendous opposition from villagers who believed once the children got educated they would leave the village. The school had a modest start with two rooms, two teachers, a hand-pump and no electricity and provided free education to the children.

Within a few years, we bought an old tractor trolley, as IDRF could not afford a school bus. Soon, the tractor trolley had to make two trips to take the children to school. IDRF provided a school bus. Now, the children from even further off wanted to attend this school. So every few years IDRF added more buses, now totaling to five.

Recently ... The school expanded beyond Class 10th to include Classes 11th and 12th. Previously IDRF funding could not support education beyond Class 10th and the students were required to enroll elsewhere in order to continue their education. However, due to the villagers’ concerns about the safety of girls traveling far, IDRF initially funded private classes for them beyond Class 10th. The enthusiasm of the villagers and availability of funds through IDRF has resulted in housing the senior classes within the school premises. The multi-storied school building has all facilities, including science labs, a state-of-the-art auditorium and faculty apartments.

In 2014, an IDRF grant enabled the school to build a computer lab to impart computer education and skills among the students.

The Success of IDRF’s vision and development strategy is reflected by the fact that today 1,200 students from 30 villages are brought by 5 buses to attend the school and the students perform better in state board exams compared to other schools in the region. The operational costs of the school are now met by the same villages who opposed the idea of having a school more than two decades ago.
IDRF constructed a well-equipped hostel with the capacity to house 102 tribal girls within the campus of the Smt. Brahma Devi Saraswati Balika Vidya Mandir run by Shiksha Bharati.

IDRF and Shiksha Bharati provide free boarding and lodging to the 68 girls residing here.

The school imparts holistic education through modern technologies like e-learning, smart class and includes up-to-date Computer, Science and Math labs. In addition to these, extra-curricular activities such as sports, music and dance are also offered. Accreditation by the Central Board of Secondary Education allows the students to transfer to other schools or obtain college admission. Some of the tribal graduates have returned to their native regions, where they teach local girls, thus, making a contribution in breaking the cycle of gender discrimination and poverty in their communities.

Through the support of generous IDRF donors, tribal girls are now able to visit their parents every year as opposed to every other year

IDRF Donor, Dr. Nirupma Rohatgi who visited the school says that “To see these girls getting opportunities that they otherwise would not get was really inspiring and motivated me to increase my support by sponsoring additional tribal girls through IDRF”. Another IDRF Donor, Dr. Ram Arya who visited this school with his wife, Santosh, feels “Overall our visit to the school was an enriching experience and we came out very impressed with the dedication and efforts of the school administration and Shiksha Bharati”.

“I feel proud to come here and found a very good and ideal school for my studies. I have learnt a lot about my country and the power of women and their contribution to the freedom and development of our country”.

– Nitisha Das (a tribal girl student from Sikkim, Class 9th)

*Quote translated from Hindi.
HEALTH

VIVEKANANDA KENDRA – Arunachal Pradesh & Assam
Mobile Medical Clinic

In July 2014, IDRF partnered with Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari to establish a new “Mobile Medical Clinic”, in order to serve the medical needs of over 50,000 marginalized people from 35-40 of the most remote villages across Arunachal Pradesh. The van is used for monthly visits to each of Vivekananda Kendra’s supported villages, as well as for conducting medical camps several times a year. With the new vehicle, the medical team is trying to reach out to even more remote villages, in three districts, along the Indo-Myanmar borders of Arunachal Pradesh.

Within six months, the team conducted 31 Medical camps, 44 Patient Screening Programs, 23 Health Awareness Meetings and 12 School Outreach Programs touching the lives of more than 3000 people.

IDRF created the Rural Area Medical Aid (RAMA) program, whereby, medical doctors in the United States, donate $1,000/year to cover the operating costs of the vans. In 2014, IDRF was able to finance $10,000 of the partial operation costs of $18,000 needed for the medical vans. Additional doctor friends are still needed to fully meet operational expenses. Finances to buy an additional van have already been pledged with the goal that there will be one van for each of the districts served. IDRF is also working with Vivekananda Kendra to make the program sustainable by charging nominal/partial fees for medical services provided.

Dr. Arti Gehani, who is a member of IDRF’s RAMA group, recently served in a free surgical camp jointly sponsored by Vivekananda Kendra in Arunachal Pradesh. According to Arti, “As physicians, it was joyful to share our skills, but it was also very difficult and frustrating due to lack of medical equipment. Despite the challenges, the experience was wonderful but heartbreaking at the same time. The people were humble and kind and very grateful for our services. I believe that I gained much more from this experience than the patients did.”
As IDRF funding is in grant form, the repaid loans are used as revolving credit to make new loans.

*Loan sizes have increased from INR 10,000 to 20,000 and repayment rates are at 99%.*

IDRF grants directed entirely towards the provision of loans, limited solely to rural areas and villages, ERDS is able to provide women with loans that were previously impossible to obtain due to the high cost of capital.

**Madhumati Saha’s Story:**

Prior to joining ERDS’ Micro Finance program in 2010, Madhumati Saha’s garment workshop was making a loss in spite of her hard work. Through ERDS, she obtained a loan of INR 10,000 to buy an embroidery machine and raw materials. This initial investment paid off, and with the help of other loans through ERDS, she was able to expand the business to include hosiery products and children’s clothing.

After successful repayment of her loans, she was able to borrow larger amounts that allowed her to rent a place to house the business and hire employees. She is now a thriving wholesale supplier of clothing products to various retail outlets in Kolkata. Her family income has improved significantly to INR 25,000 -30,000 per month.

“We are now capable enough to fulfill the basic needs of the family like education, nutrition, and health. We consider ourselves blessed to be members of this microfinance program.” Madhumati Saha.
ECOFRIENDLY DEVELOPMENT

SAMERTH CHARITABLE TRUST – District Kutch, Gujarat

Water Harvesting

IDRF has worked in collaboration with Samerth Trust and two key donors from the USA to provide safe and sustainable water resources and develop community based assets for the poor and marginalized communities in Rapar Block, Dist. Kutch, Gujarat.

This is a huge benefit to areas like Rapar, which are perennially water scarce and depend heavily on water bodies that are refilled each year by undependable monsoons. The region has rain-fed agriculture that is the backbone of the economy. Due to lack of rainfall in the monsoon season, families have had to migrate with their belongings and cattle.

The Samerth team recognized the need for holistic water security plans as they developed micro plans to address this issue. It also created the twin opportunity of not only creating sustainable water resources but also arresting migration in the short run. A process was followed to ensure that, in addition to the administrative and governance bodies, the villagers owned the plan and ensured its success.

**IDRF provided $78,000 in grants over the two year duration of the water harvesting project to construct 12 Earthen Check Dams (ECDs) and 16 wells in the villages of Rapar.**

IDRF has been able to provide growing support to Samerth’s projects. IDRF has sent 5 grants totaling $78,000 over the two year duration of the water harvesting project. During this period, 12 Earthen Check Dams (ECDs) and 16 dug wells were constructed in the villages of Rapar. As many as 1,000 households have benefited directly from increased water availability in the last two years. Through this project, Samerth has covered 20% of the villages directly, and 61% of the total region of Rapar by way of influencing them to replicate the processes for asset building for water.

94% of villages assisted by our partner NGO had adequate water even though the region had 50% less rainfall than average in 2014.
ANTICORRUPTION

JANAAGRAHA CENTER FOR CITIZENSHIP & DEMOCRACY – Karnataka
Improving Urban Governance

With rampant corruption and officials wielding unquestioned authority, underprivileged Indians rarely have access to the resources allocated to them for their welfare. IDRF’s strategic programs are building productive and honest relationships between local officials and under-represented/most exploited members of society. Better local governance means greater success in all development projects, because it creates the way for marginalized people to advocate for themselves.

In 2014, IDRF sent a grant of $98,000 to the Janaagraha Center for Citizenship & Democracy.

Janaagraha is a governance organization focusing on pan-India campaigns & encouraging Indians to implement social change in their local communities. It works to improve quality of life in cities and towns through good governance and citizenship empowerment. It finds solutions to urban challenges through a structured road map of action.

The IDRF grant was at an institutional level to help Janaagraha carry out programs based on the city systems framework that encompasses four interrelated dimensions which are critical to the running of world-class cities:

a) Urban Planning and Design,
b) Urban Capacities and Resources,
c) Empowered & Legitimate Political Representation,
d) Transparency, Accountability, and Participation.
IDRF responded to the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) flooding and landslides disasters in September 2014, by partnering with the NGO Sewa Bharti (J&K) to implement a disaster response project for the affected communities, irrespective of caste or religion.

The IDRF funded disaster response project for impacted communities included both short and long-term relief measures.

Along with distribution of food and *pherans* (traditional woolen gowns)—to keep people warm through the winters, Sewa Bharti also distributed mobile stalls and goods, such as *kangris* (fire pots). In addition to supplies, relief to flood victims for the repair and construction of their damaged houses was provided both in the form of relief checks and construction materials.

“We realized self-reliance is the only way to somewhat stabilize the lives of the affected people. So in this regard, we want to distribute mobile stalls including the materials for selling, so that the affected people could start earning their livelihood and bring their lives back on track.”

Quote by unknown employee of Sewa Bharti
There were some special events held in various parts of the US, where the Indian community and supporters of IDRF had the privilege to participate and raise funds.

**Independence Day**
The state of California celebrated India’s Independence Day in August 2014, at Sacramento. IDRF was selected out of the proposed sixteen organizations that work in India, to be honored as part of the celebrations. Reena Goyal, an ardent supporter, represented IDRF at the function and chose to showcase “Shiksha Bharati”, a flagship IDRF program. The event was very successful and helped her raise $10,000 for IDRF.

**Diwali Gala**
Dr. Avani Trivedi, a medical doctor at Princeton, New Jersey, has been inspired by IDRF’s work and organized a Diwali Gala in the Princeton area inviting her network of friends and acquaintances. About 150 people attended the event. Her goal was modest, hoping to raise $700-800 but ended up raising $3,300 for IDRF. Photo Courtesy: Sameer Khan, Fotobuddy Photographs.

**Natya Bharati**
Natya Bharati, a DC metro area based group of theater enthusiasts of Indian origin, performed the play, “Taconic Parkway”, in June 2014. Through its charitable arm, Sahara Inc., they contributed $1,500 to IDRF.
Awards

IDRF has been recognized for its work by leading US, national and local organizations. Below are some noteworthy awards received by IDRF and its founder Dr. Vinod Prakash:

1. IDRF has the distinguished honor of being awarded, **two years in a row, 4 out of 4 stars by Charity Navigator**, the premier evaluator of nonprofits in the United States. A 4 star rating indicates that IDRF maintains the highest standards of financial health, transparency and accountability.

2. A renowned local organization of the Washington DC metro area, India Cultural Coordination Committee (ICCC), honored Dr. Vinod Prakash with the **Social Service Award** in August 2014 as part of the India Independence Day celebrations.

3. The **Gandhi Global Family Seva Award** was given to Dr. Vinod Prakash in October 2014 for IDRF’s social and humanitarian services.

IDRF IN THE NEWS


“IDRF for Development in Rajasthan”, by GR Verma, Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA), International Convention, New York, July 2014

“IDRF for Development Activities in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana”, by Sasala Challa, Telugu Association of North America (TANA), August 2014

“Aid Groups Focus on Rehabilitation for Kashmir Flood Victims”, by Sunita Sohrabji, India West, September 26, 2014

“India Development & Relief Fund helps achieve ‘Clean and Strong India’”, by Seshadri Kumar, India Herald, October 29, 2014

*Please visit News at www.idrf.org
Visits to IDRF Funded Programs by Board Members

IDRF has active Board members and highly involved donors/supporters, who have taken time out of their busy schedules to visit various IDRF funded programs within India in 2014. In addition to providing a monitoring mechanism, these visits have provided feedback and observations, which IDRF follows-up on as part of its execution going forward. Some of these visits have been highlighted below:

**G. R Verma:** Visited three educational institutions in Rajasthan:
Swami Keshwanand Smriti Charitable Trust in Sangaria, Maharishi Dayanand Mahila Shikshan Sansthan Samiti in Jhunjhunu and Grameen Mahila Sikshan Sansthan in Sikar. Progress Report from Maharishi Dayanand Mahila Shikshan Sansthan Samiti show that, IDRF has provided valuable direction and dynamic leadership that has enabled them to provide quality education to girls from the villages of Rajasthan. Dr. Verma who has been visiting these institutions every year is very pleased with the overall progress of these institutions and the girls supported by IDRF.

![A view of our college campus](image1.jpg)

![Students at the Jhunjhunu Campus](image2.jpg)

![A view of some girls who are discussing with each other](image3.jpg)
**Dileep Thatte:** Visited 2 projects in Pune: Swa-Roopawardhinee and Lila Poonawalla Foundation.

He was very inspired by the excellent training imparted to the children from economically downtrodden families, motivating them to actively engage in social reforms in the future. He was particularly impressed by his meeting with Nishikant Waikar, son of a mill worker, who was a student and now a volunteer at Swa-Roopawardhinee. Waikar has his own computer business that has cutting edge technology providing back up support for Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) machines. This is a real success story and an achievement for someone coming from a disadvantaged background.

Dileep got a chance to interact with the founder of Lila Poonawalla Foundation and some Lila Fellows. These Fellows, though academically excelling would not have been able to continue with their higher education, because of severe economic constraints, but for the fellowship awarded by the Foundation.

**Sasala Challa:** Visited Sree Kasturibai Mahila Samajan, Andhra Pradesh

Dr. Challa was pleased with her visit and was able to tour the full wing built through IDRF Funds. The residents, who are elderly and ailing women, live together as a family and seem to be happy under the loving care of Swamini Lalitananda, who has dedicated her life to the care of these women.

**Visits by IDRF Donors.**

**Ram & Santosh Arya:** Visited Shiksha Bharati (Smt. Brahma Devi Saraswati Balika Vidya Mandir), Hapur, UP

**Dr. Nirupma Rohatgi:** Visited Shiksha Bharati (Smt. Brahma Devi Saraswati Balika Vidya Mandir), Hapur, UP

**Dr. Mohini & Dr. Arti Ghehani:** Served in surgical camp sponsored by Vivekananda Kendra in Arunachal Pradesh
IDRF Future Projects

IDRF has continued to grow and evolve over the last several years, expanding the scope of its work, both via new programs and coverage by geographical areas. However, there are new challenges that keep arising. IDRF, hopes to address some of these through its strategic partnerships, long-term vision, and guidance.

Technology Training for Rural Women
Expand partnership with Arpana, Karnal District, Haryana. Arpana has empowered women and expanded its program for the poor and underprivileged. The number of Self Help Groups (SHGs) has increased from 663 in 2013 to 800 in 2014 with 12,000 women.
- Train 100 women as community trainers over a project period of 2 years.
- Train 3,200 SHG women representatives so that they can conduct their meetings independently, with reduced dependence on external agencies.

Ecofriendly Development in Tribal Areas
Over the last 10 years, IDRF has granted funds for projects implemented by Magan Sanghrahalaya Samiti, Wardha, Maharashtra. The NGO is now seeking IDRF support for 2 different project proposals:
- Set-up a Khadi yarn dyeing and fabric printing unit to reduce the cost of fabric, improve the quality, and reduce the use of hazardous chemicals.
- Set-up a unit for production of safe, hygienic, and bio-degradable sanitary napkins at low cost for women residing in rural areas and small towns.

Assist Victims of Human Trafficking
Partner with Manav Seva Sansthan, UP, for 1-2 years to address cross border Human Trafficking along the Indo-Nepal border.
- Improve access to information and services to reduce the vulnerability of cross border migrants (women and children) to abuse, harassment, and trafficking.

Assistance for Households Living Below the Poverty Line
IDRF will like to continue our partnership with Shyamrasad Institute for Social Service (SISS) in a program wherein, 90% of funds are provided by a variety of govt. agencies in India and the remaining is raised by local communities and IDRF.
- Set up rural sanitation units and distribute homeo-medicine for sun-stroke in 162 villages in Adilabad, Telangana. About 2,600 BPL Households will be provided PSLs and soak pits and basic health and sanitation awareness.

Additional Medical Facilities in Arunachal Pradesh
Expand the partnership with Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari to institutionalize their mobile medical efforts.
- Set up a pathology unit at Tinsukia, Assam, with daily OPD service and a modern lab to do diagnostic tests at affordable prices.
- Establish a facility for general and eye surgeries, continuing to utilize the free services of volunteer surgeons from India and abroad. This is a supplement to IDRF’s ongoing Medical Van project.
DONATE

More than 95 cents of every $1 goes directly to our programs

ONLINE
https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/IDRF

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Please make your check payable to: “IDRF” and mail it to:
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North Bethesda, MD 20852
Please include your email address

AMAZON SMILE
Support IDRF while you shop—at no extra cost
https://smile.amazon.com Choose “IDRF” as your charity

YOU CAN DOUBLE YOUR DONATION
Corporate Employees may double their donation through Charitable Matching Gift Program at their company (Consult your company’s HR department)

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

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)
US Federal Govt. employees may donate through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) by selecting our code "18889"

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- Used Car Donation
- Charitable Trust

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Ms. Reena Goyal  Educating Girls
Mr. Punit Mukhija  Promotions
Mr. Navin Prasad  Advisor in India
Dr. Samathha R. Reddy  Website Coordinator

IDRF Annual Report 2014 written by Mrs. Sudha Garg
Edited & Designed by Ms. Niti Duggal and Mrs. Sudha Jain
Putting power in the hands of the poor in India and Nepal